Foreign hand suspected in Al-Ghozi escape

Story below, Col. 3

RPN-9 fires lawyer who sued Dante Ang

By Jerry Esplanada

THE LAWYER who questioned the citizenship of newspaper publisher Dante Ang has been relieved of his hosting job at Directline, a public service program of the government-sequestered RPN-9 television network.

Melanio "Batas" Mauricio Jr. blamed both President Macapagal-Arroyo and

RPN-9/A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Man prefers prison to nagging wife

By Margaux Ortiz

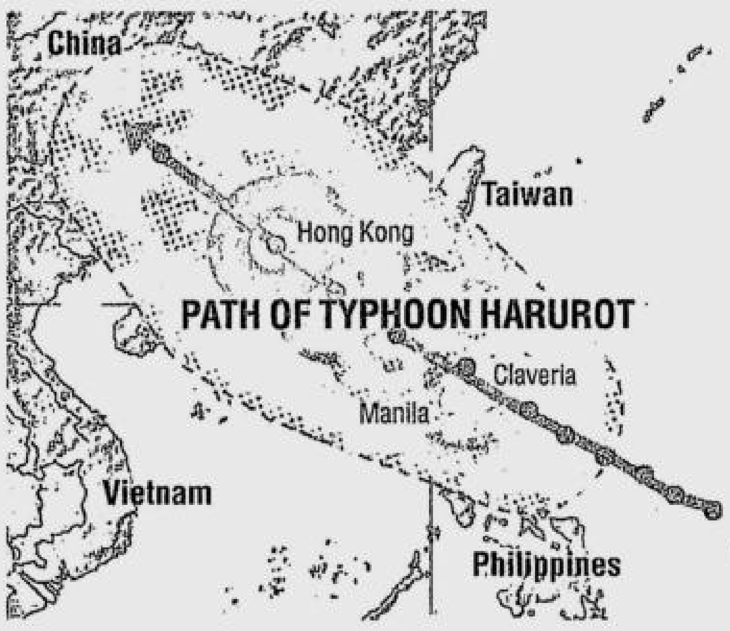
IBALIK SA ASAWA PARA MAPARUSAHAN!

THE HOSTAGE-TAKER just wanted to get away from his wife—or so he claimed.

Ramon del Castillo, 33, was arrested for holding his

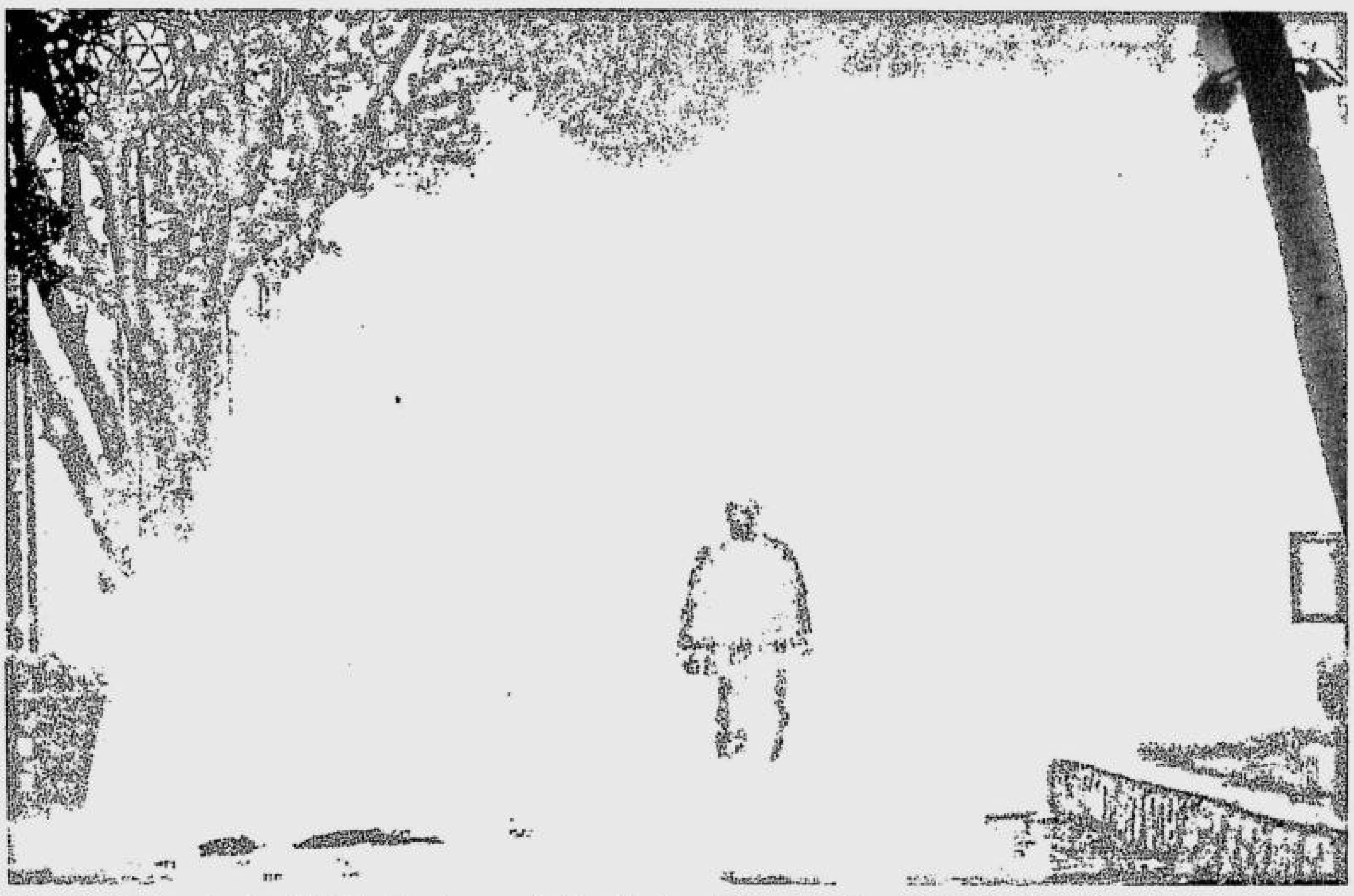
MAN/A18

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Wednesday, July 23, 2003 ★★ 58 pages / 5 sections / vol. 18 / no. 225 P15 website: www.inq7.net



'Harurot' slams Luzon; 6 killed

Classes suspended, brownouts widespread



SUNSHINE is the color of an MMDA's raincoat even as the fury of typhoon "Harurot" packing winds of 190 kph whip up Manila Bay to overflow beyond the seawall and into the Roxas Boulevard promenade.

ERIK ARAZAS

By the PDI News Bureaus

FOUR high school students died instantly early yesterday as howling winds brought by typhoon "Harurot" (international name: Imbudo) sent a huge *buli* tree crashing into the tricycle they were riding on the national highway of Barangay Poblacion in San Agustin, Romblon.

Tricycle driver Eleodoro Orencio also died on the spot.

Pagasa raised a rare Storm Signal—No. 4—over Isabela, Cagayan and Northern Aurora as Harurot pounded Northern Luzon, toppling electric posts in Baguio City and parts of Benguet and Cagayan Valley and causing widespread power outages.

At 5 p.m. Tuesday, power had yet to be restored in most parts of Northern Luzon and the Cordillera.

"I can hear the winds howling. The roof of my kitchen is gone," a housewife in Cagayan told Reuters by phone.

"The last time we raised such a signal was on Oct. 11, 1998," meteorologist Mario Palafox said.

Classes were suspended in all levels in Baguio, Isabela, Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya and Pangasinan.

Senior Supt. Alejandro Lapinid, Mimaropa police director, identified the four students as Clarissa Espeg, 14; Eric Salazar, 14; Jovelyn dela Vega, 15; and Chona Mortel, 16—all of Bachawan National High School.

Eight others, including two sons of Orencio, the tricycle driver were seriously injured. They were taken to the San Agustin District Hospital.

The victims, who were on their way to school, suffered fractured bones and numerous wounds.

'HARUROT'/A20

Joker: Don't move P38B to national treasury

By Michael Lim Ubac and Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG'S plan to transfer to the Bureau of Treasury the P38 billion in Marcos loot the Supreme Court forfeited in favor of the government would be "tragic" for the victims of human rights violations during the Marcos regime, Sen. Joker P. Arroyo said yesterday.

"We should not let the human rights victims be victims twice over," Arroyo said.

He said in an interview that transferring the money, now in an escrow account of the Philippine National Bank, to the Treasury would allow "vultures in the finance department to feed on the carcass of the living."

The maverick administration senator said it would "do well for Malacañang to leave alone in the

JOKER/A18

How much is decision of Congress?

By Carlito Pablo and Christine O. Avendaño

IT SHOULD be at least P10 billion and it's Congress that will decide how much compensation will go to victims of human rights violations during the Marcos regime.

Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales (Akbayan) said so yesterday in reaction to President Macapagal-Arroyo's announcement that the Marcos loot held in an escrow account of the Philippine National Bank would be divided into P8 billion for the rights victims and P30 billion for agrarian reform.

"At the very least, it should be P10 billion," said Rosales, founding leader of Claimants 1081, a group of Marcos victims.

Rosales, chair of the House

HOW/A18

Young naval officer reports death threats

By TJ Burgonio

A MEMBER of a group of junior officers disgruntled with low pay and graft in the military had received threatening phone calls, according to the Armed Forces chief of staff.

Gen. Narciso Abaya told reporters that Lt. Senior Grade Jose Trillanes, who wrote a paper on graft and corruption in the Navy, had sought refuge in the Presidential Security Group following threats to his life.

"He (Trillanes) got some threatening calls on his cell phone; he didn't know (who made the calls)," Abaya said at the briefing on Monday afternoon. "Apparently the caller told him that he couldn't get away with what he's been doing."

Abaya said Trillanes, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class '95, had prepared a paper on corruption in the Navy in compliance with a requirement for a master's degree in public administration at the University of the Philippines.

Abaya had bull sessions with members of PMA Classes '94 and '95 following reports that they held a series of meetings and griped about low pay, graft, and the micromanagement style of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Their meetings had set off speculations that they were plotting to mount a coup against President Macapagal-Arroyo. In response, Ms Macapagal ordered Abaya to set up a mechanism to deal with the grievances of the junior officers.

Abaya said members of PMA

YOUNG/A18

Intelligence Group purged; 90 sacked

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE AX fell on 90 more members of the Philippine National Police Intelligence Group, under whose watch Indonesian terrorist bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi escaped.

Most of the operatives, led by four police colonels, were relieved primarily because they lacked formal training on intelligence, said Director Arturo Lomibao, newly appointed IG officer in charge. Others were relieved for inefficiency.

"It is our policy that only those with intelligence schooling who are holding sensitive positions should be in Intelligence," Lomibao told reporters.

Among the officials who lost their posts were Supt. Rodrigo Agojo, chief of Regional Intelligence Office 4, Supt. Ireneo Inal of Region 5, Supt. Wilfredo Elli, chief of the Logistics Division, and Supt. Luisito Ruiz, deputy chief of the Central Intelligence Office.

Chief Insp. Elwin Fernandez, deputy chief for Metro Manila, and Chief Insp. Reynaldo Cachuela, deputy chief of the Technical Support Office, were also relieved.

The officers would undergo retraining before they could hold another position, Lomibao said.

There are only around 800 police intelligence officers detailed nationwide, Lomibao said.

The massive relief was

INTELLIGENCE/A21

SUPT. REUBEN GALBAN promises to tell all to the independent commission formed by President Macapagal.

JOAN BONDOC

Foreign hand seen in Al-Ghozi escape; Galban breaks silence

By Christian V. Esguerra with Arlyn dela Cruz
Contributor

A SOURCE in the intelligence community offered yet another angle to the controversial escape of Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, even as the police officer suspected of freeing the Indonesian terrorist and two Abu Sayyaf bandits finally broke his silence yesterday.

Supt. Reuben Galban, dismissed chief of the police Intelligence Group's Foreign Intelligence Liaison Office (Filo), insisted that he had nothing to do with the escape of Al-Ghozi, Abdulmukim Ong Edris and Omar Opik Lasal.

But the intelligence source, who is familiar with police and military operations in counterterrorism, suggested that Galban and Senior Supt. Romeo Ricardo of Task Force Sanlahi may have "knowledge in the escape of Al-Ghozi using Edris as the direct contact."

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Edris was actually a government asset. *(See story at right.)*

"What happened here was a typical asset handling (*sic*)," he said.

"Edris was deliberately delivered to Al-Ghozi for them to develop trust and confidence," he added.

"It's what we call in the intelligence community as human agents manipulation but what is

FOREIGN/A21

ABDULMUKIM EDRIS: Close links to AFP, PNP intelligence?

Is Edris key to Al-Ghozi escape?

By Arlyn dela Cruz

FATHUR Rohman al-Ghozi may be hugging the limelight but one of the two men who bolted their Camp Crame cell with him may be the key in solving the mystery of the escape.

Abdulmikim Edris, 31, alleged leader of the Abu Sayyaf's explosives team, is reported to have long-standing ties with the Philippine National Police and

IS/A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western section of northern Luzon will be stormy with rough to very rough seas becoming cloudy with occasional rains and gusty winds later. The rest of western Luzon will experience occasional monsoon rains.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/07/23/03

Metro Manila	Occasional Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Stormy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Stormy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Occasional Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Occasional Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Second FrontPage

Palace to widen lifestyle checks

Crackdown to include Cabinet men, GMA kin

By Gil Cabacungan

MALACAÑANG has widened the so-called lifestyle check on government officials as part of its anti-corruption drive, to include other graft-ridden agencies, Cabinet secretaries, all presidential appointees and, possibly, even members of the First Family, in the wake of the finance department's decision to charge with graft four officials of the customs and internal revenue bureaus.

"A continuing purge of the high echelons of the government will be sustained under due process. Our democracy has the means and tools to check and contain corruption that we will use to the fullest extent," said President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in a statement.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the President wanted "an honest-to-goodness investigation and prosecution of those involved, no matter how high depending on the extent of evidence gathered by investigating teams."

Bunye said the expanded lifestyle check would 'cover practically all government agencies, although the President "would like to focus on agencies that are perceived to be prone to corruption."

He said the President was also "not averse to having any member of the First Family subjected to a lifestyle check," even though they should not really be covered by such probes as they are neither government officials nor presidential appointees.

Next targets

Although he did not specify any department, Bunye said the next target of the lifestyle checks after the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs would be agencies that were ranked very high in public perception of corruption in opinion surveys.

Respondents in a survey on public sector corruption, conducted from October 2002 to February 2003 by the Social Weather Station, ranked the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Philippine National Police and the Land Transportation Office among the top 5 most corrupt government agencies behind the BOC and the BIR.

Ms Macapagal said the government's strategy was to combine prosecution and bureaucratic reform in the crackdown on corruption and red tape.

"I ask the support and cooperation of the public to bring this campaign to a higher level of vigilance that will make potential grafters think twice before they act. The people must be the eyes and ears of the government to deter corruption from street level to the corridors of bureaucracy," Ms Macapagal said.

The INQUIRER reported on Monday that the internal affairs unit of the Department of Finance, after conducting a lifestyle check, had decided to bring charges of unexplained wealth against three tax officials and a customs warehousing chief.

Trial by publicity

Crying that they were being subjected to trial by publicity, the three BIR officials—assistant commissioners Edwin Abella and Percival Salaza and resigned regional director Lucen Sayuno—denied they had enriched themselves and protested the finance department's publicizing their cases without any regard to their reputation.

Bunye said their complaint should be directed to the INQUIRER and not Malacañang.

"If they are proven innocent, they can always demand that the newspaper give the acquittal the same degree of prominence." This is according to the Ombudsman of the INQUIRER.

"They can insist that their acquittal be published with equal prominence in the front page with their pictures. That is the policy of the paper, to balance out the news," he said.

He said the BIR and BOC officials found liable for unexplained wealth were presumed innocent until proven otherwise.

"These officials will have their day in court where they can set up their defense," Bunye said.

In Congress, Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran yesterday said the filing of graft charges against the BIR officials does not justify the bureau's proposed privatization and massive lay-off of employees. *With a report from Cynthia Balana*

BIR exec in bribery entrapment suspended

CEBU CITY—The Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas has ordered the six-month preventive suspension of an examiner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, while an investigation into allegations that he had received bribe money was being conducted.

Deputy Ombudsman Primo Miro approved the preventive suspension order against Reynaldo Dosono, the head of the BIR's capital gains tax section in Subangdaku, Mandaue City, Cebu.

The Ombudsman Act of 1989 authorizes the Ombudsman or his deputies to suspend any officer or employee under his authority during an investigation.

The police arrested Dosono in an entrapment operation last July 15, in which he was allegedly caught in the act of receiving money from a businessman.

Apart from the criminal complaint for attempted bribery, Dosono is also under administrative investigation for grave misconduct.

The Ombudsman investigating officer, Allan Francisco Garciano, recommended Dosono's suspension, after establishing that the evidence presented by Vicente and Paterna Igot "appeared to be strong enough to establish the probable guilt of [the] respondent."

If found guilty of grave misconduct, Dosono could be dismissed from government service.

In his suspension order, Garciano said Dosono was in a position to "suppress evidence against him or may use his influence over probable witnesses, office mates or the transacting public, who may have witnessed the incident on July 15 at the BIR office and may be called to testify."

He said there was a strong possibility that Dosono's continued stay in office while the investigation was going on could prejudice the outcome of the case against him.

Dosono was accused of allegedly demanding P30,000 from the Igot couple in exchange for recomputing the tax assessment for certain pieces of property belonging to the couple's two sons.

Dosono had originally assessed the tax due at P89,800, which the Igot couple believed was too much for the two lots valued at P100,000 each.

They asked for a re-computation of the capital gains tax, which Dosono agreed to do.

In the second assessment, the tax due was computed at P24,960, which meant a rebate of more than P60,000. Dosono allegedly demanded half of the amount that the couple would have saved.

While they agreed to pay the amount demanded by the BIR official, the Igots also decided to consult a friend in the media, who took them to the office of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-Central Visayas (CIDG-7) here.

It was then that the entrapment operation was planned.

On instructions from Supt. Edwin Diocos, three operatives of the CIDG-7 conducted the entrapment at 10:30 a.m. last July 15.

Immediately after the transaction was completed, the policemen arrested Dosono.

But even before the complaint could be filed against him, Dosono posted a P12,000 bail and was temporarily released. *Suzzane B. Salva, PDI Visayas Bureau*

SC upholds dismissal of DPWH exec

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court has upheld the dismissal by Malacañang of a former regional director of the Department of Public Works and Highways for unexplained wealth.

Edillo C. Montemayor, former DPWH OIC regional director for Central Luzon, was dismissed from government service after it was found that he had bought a P3.9-million house in the United States with an income of only P168,648 in 1993. (At prevailing peso-dollar exchange rate at the time, the house could have cost $143,805.)

In a 14-page decision penned by Associate Justice Reynato Puno, the Supreme Court threw out Montemayor's petition to review the April 18, 2001 Court of Appeals decision, which affirmed his dismissal, with forfeiture of all government benefits.

"We find that the Court of Appeals correctly sustained petitioner's dismissal from service as the complaint and its supporting documents established that he acquired a property whose value is disproportionate to his income in the government service. Unless he has other sources of income, which he failed to reveal, (Montemayor's) liability was proved by substantial evidence," the high court said.

The case began in 1995, when an unverified letter-complaint from a certain Luis Bundalian alerted the Philippine consulate in San Francisco in the United States.

The letter accused Montemayor of accumulating unexplained wealth in violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

Bundalian alleged that Montemayor and his wife had bought a house and lot at 907 North Bel Aire Drive, Burbank, Los Angeles, California, making a down payment of $100,000.

The case was forwarded to the now defunct Philippine Commission Against Graft and Corruption, under the Office of the President.

In his counter-affidavit, Montemayor claimed that the Bel Aire property's real owner was his sister-in-law Estela Fajardo. He said she offered to buy the property and put the title in the name of Montemayor and his wife to support the couple's plans for emigration.

Despite repeated requests from the PCAGC, Montemayor failed to submit his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN), income tax returns (ITRs) and personal data sheet.

Following an investigation, the PCAGC concluded that Montemayor had unlawfully acquired the Bel Aire property, since he could not have afforded it with his annual income in 1993.

The PCAGC findings were upheld by Malacañang and the Court of Appeals.

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Despite 'Harurot,' Inquirer Libre sets sail with Super Ferry

By Tarra Quismundo

NOT EVEN typhoon "Harurot" can stop it from reaching out.

The INQUIRER Libre, the Philippine Daily Inquirer's free paper, was read for the first time at the Eva Macapagal Super Terminal in Manila's South Harbor yesterday.

"I think it's good that a free paper will be distributed here, so we stay informed," said one passenger who was awaiting her trip to Cebu. It was the first time she read the INQUIRER Libre.

The free paper, distributed mostly among commuters in Metro Manila, was launched at the WG&A terminal even as the Harurot howled on Manila Bay just within sight. WG&A's Superferry 12 got clearance to set sail for Cebu shortly afterward.

INQUIRER Libre's newsstand was opened by INQUIRER president and chief executive officer Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez.

"This is a win-win-win situation because the INQUIRER Libre will now be able to reach out to more readers, and reach even the provinces. On the part of the WG&A, it's something to give to their passengers. And for the passengers, it's something to read while on board the ship," she added.

Attending the launching were INQUIRER senior vice president for corporate services David Valdes, assistant vice president for advertising Kenny Nuyda, assistant vice president for marketing and classified ads Donald Lim, corporate planning and business development manager Imee Alcantara, general counsel Raul Palabrica, and Libre acting editor in chief Chito dela Vega.

WG&A president and chief operating officer Wilmer Alfonso said that he was happy that the free paper had reached the terminal.

"It is an advantage for our passengers, so that they could have something to read while in their long voyage, without even paying for it," Alfonso said.

Around 1,000 copies of INQUIRER Libre, which first came out in November 2001, will be distributed to passengers awaiting their departure at the Eva Macapagal Super Terminal every day.

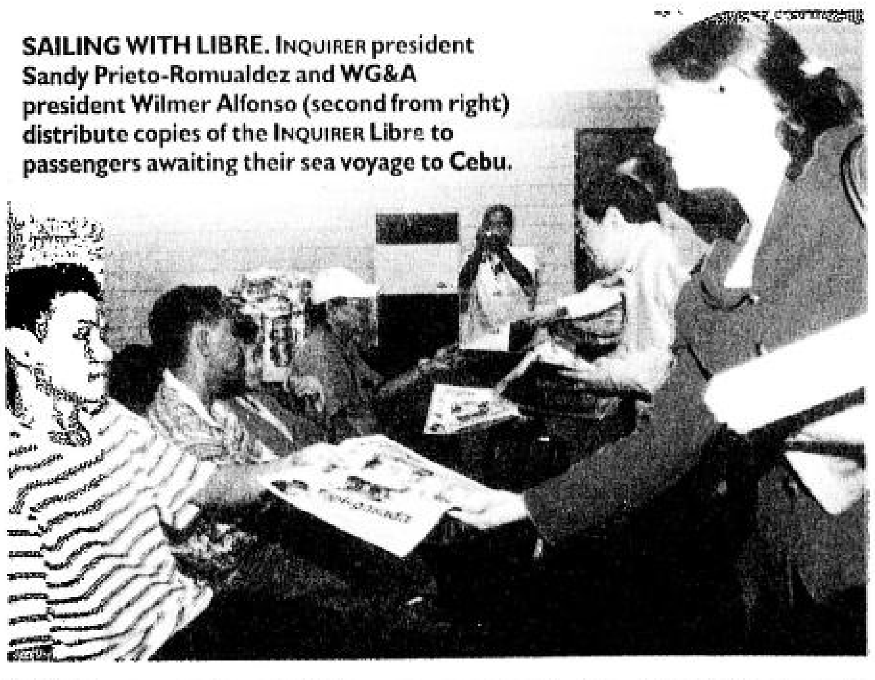
Roughly 1,200 passengers pass through the terminal daily, according to Rochelle Hilario, corporate communications officer of Asian Terminals Incorporated.

"What we keep in mind is to be able to provide information that is useful and positive, and to get people more engaged in the community," Romualdez said.

The Eva Macapagal Super Terminal is the third terminal of the WG&A Superferry where INQUIRER Libre is distributed.

INQUIRER Libre's 115,000 copies are distributed Mondays to Fridays in piers 4 and 14 of the North Harbor, 13 Metro Rail Transit stations, 18 Light Rail Transit stations, and R&E Taxis.

There are plans for the paper to be distributed aboard all WG&A superferries and provincial bus stations in Metro Manila.



SAILING WITH LIBRE. INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez and WG&A president Wilmer Alfonso (second from right) distribute copies of the INQUIRER Libre to passengers awaiting their sea voyage to Cebu.

Bahrain gives RP $1-M grant for Mindanao

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE KINGDOM of Bahrain has approved a $1 million grant to the Philippines for development projects in Mindanao, according to special envoy to the Gulf Cooperation Council Amable R. Aguiluz V.

Aguiluz said the grant was approved during his meeting with Bahrain Finance and National Economy minister Abdullah Hassan Saif when he visited the Gulf last week.

The proposed projects and activities to be financed by the grant consist of infrastructure projects in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), city health programs and construction of school buildings and facilities in Bukidnon, and procurement of hospital equipment and supplies in Tawi-Tawi. The grant was first offered by Prime Minister Khalifa Bin Salman al-Khalifa during his visit to Manila.

The grant for Mindanao development will be coursed through the United Nations Development Program.

During the meeting with Saif, Aguiluz said he also pushed for the ratification of the RP-Bahrain Agreement on Double Taxation so that the estimated 38,000 Filipino workers there would not be taxed twice.

The meeting also discussed the possibility of a free trade zone between both countries, Aguiluz said.

Aguiluz, meanwhile, said 23 Filipino seamen who have been languishing in jail at the United Arab Emirates for two and a half years now on trumped up bank fraud charges may soon be home.

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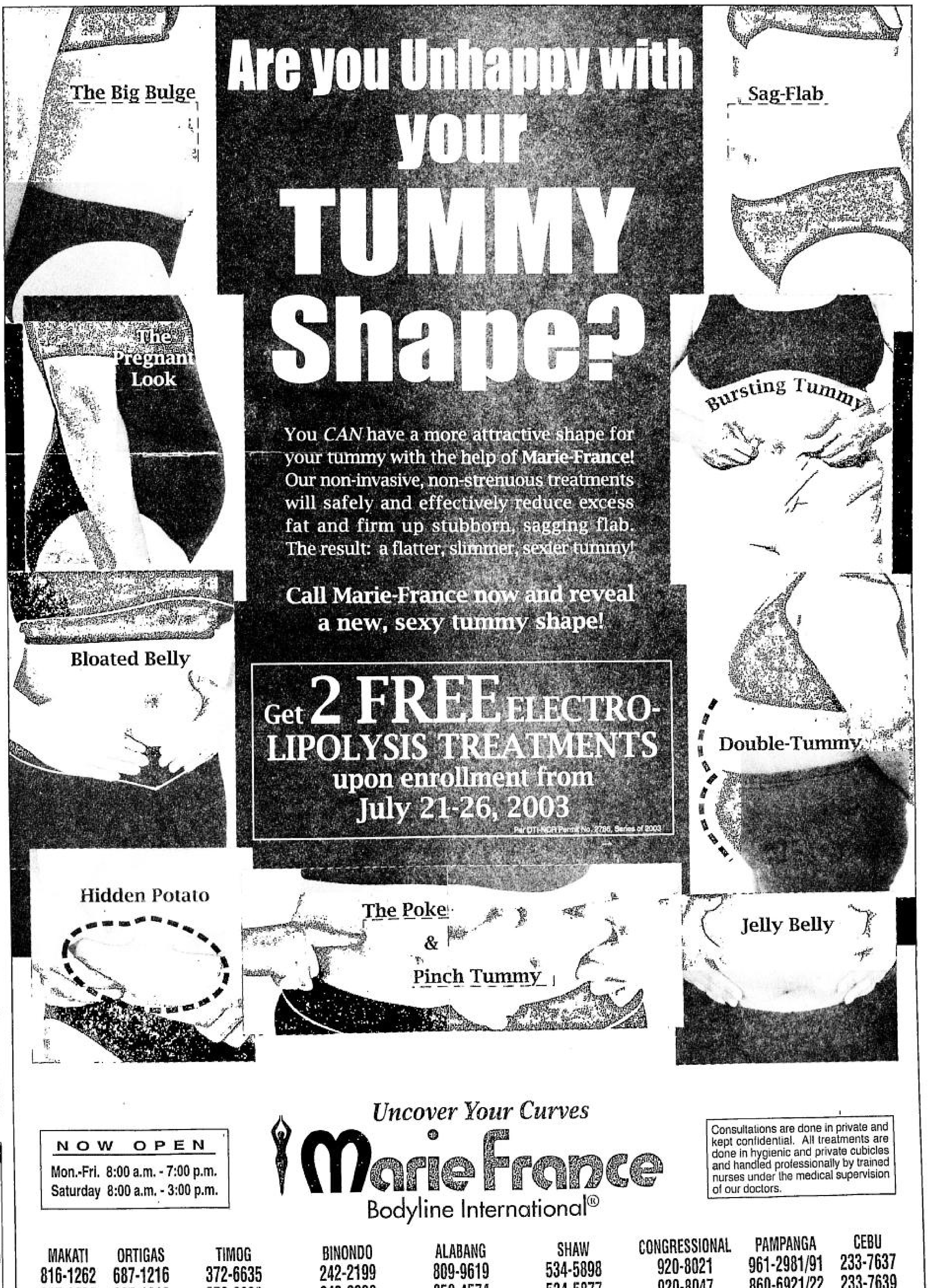

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With uncooperative client, Erap lawyer quits

By Volt Contreras

THE RECOGNIZED leader among four court-appointed lawyers of deposed president Joseph Estrada resigned yesterday because of health problems, but also because of the client's firm refusal to help build his own defense in the P4-billion plunder case.

Prospero Crescini, 73, announced his withdrawal from the trial less than a week before July 28, the date set by the Sandiganbayan for the defense to start presenting its evidence.

In a motion seeking his relief, Crescini said he "finds it difficult to proceed under such a climate of confusion, if not outright contradiction" brought about by Estrada's recent legal maneuvers through private lawyer Alan Paguia.

"How can there be an enlightened and logical defense when the de parte lawyer and the de officio counsel are not in agreement?" he told reporters later, lamenting that the situation had become "absurd and intolerable."

In his motion, Crescini also said the four de officio counsels had been preparing the defense on their own, without the slightest cooperation from their client. But he said their efforts had lately been "diluted by (Estrada's) contrary pronouncements that he will not present any evidence at all."

Estrada has anchored his "only defense" on the omnibus motion filed by Paguia to have the case dismissed for lack of jurisdiction, based on his contention that he is still president. Crescini pointed out that the motion had already been junked by the anti-graft court.

But while bidding farewell to the historic trial, Crescini said he personally believed the plunder charges had been "invented and imagined" by his VIP client's enemies, "conceived in deceit and born out of desperation."

The veteran lawyer, best known for his booming courtroom voice and verbal flair, said he was quitting also because of "failing health."

He had been bedridden for bronchitis, severe cold, and coughing spells lately, Crescini told the special Sandigan division handling Estrada's plunder and three other criminal cases.

Besides, the lawyer said, he had "not fully recovered" from the colon surgery he underwent in April 2001, on top of which he was still being treated for a heart ailment.

Reached for comment yesterday, Estrada praised Crescini for being a "good lawyer," remembering him best for the way he grilled and "discredited" former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and bank executive Clarissa Ocampo, the prosecution's two star witnesses.

He told the INQUIRER it was "possible" that Crescini was already irked— *"nainis"*—by his resolve to not recognize the Sandiganbayan's authority. Therefore, he said, he never recognized his de officio counsels, either.

Estrada reiterated his claim that he had "the strongest documentary evidence" to prove his innocence. "But I will present these to the people, not in court."

Though still subject to the court's approval, Crescini's exit leaves the hefty burden of proving Estrada's innocence to only three lawyers—Noel Malaya, Irene Jurado and retired Sandiganbayan Justice Manuel Pamaran.

CORRECTION

AVELINA Castañeda, the mother of 17 featured in the July 13, 2003, issue of the INQUIRER, won in the "Labor of Love" contest, the Mother's Day promo of Shopwise, not Rustan's.

DOJ: Atong Ang could be back by Christmas

By Philip C. Tubeza

FUGITIVE businessman Atong Ang could be back in the Philippines by December.

The Department of Justice yesterday said Ang, who is under house arrest in Las Vegas, Nevada, might be extradited by the United States in five months or less.

That is, if the Nevada district court hearing the extradition case does not entertain any motion for postponement, according to Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño.

Zuño said the government would be willing to have Ang as a state witness.

Ang and his friend, deposed President Joseph Estrada, face plunder charges for allegedly conspiring to pocket P130 million in tobacco excise taxes.

"I would not say that he is crucial to the case," Zuño said, "but his testimony would be helpful."

Zuño reported that the prosecution was able to present a strong case during the July 14 hearing of the extradition case before the Nevada court. He had gone to the United States with a team of government lawyers to attend the hearing.

"I honestly believe the arguments of Assistant US Attorney Jeffrey Cole strengthened the case," Zuño said. "We were able to convey to the judge that the Philippine government is very much interested (in getting Ang back)."

The team of lawyers sent to Nevada also included Dina Joy Tañala, Gabriel Enriquez, and Arno Sanidad.

The next hearing in Nevada is scheduled for October.

Abadilla 5 convict to SC: It's a matter of life and death

By Philip Tubeza

ARGUING that it was a matter of life and death, the lawyer of Lenido Lumanog yesterday appealed the Supreme Court decision denying the motion of one of the so-called Abadilla 5 convicts to be allowed to recuperate from a kidney operation at his home instead of being returned to the New Bilibid prison.

Lawyer Soliman Santos Jr. said what was at issue was not to secure bail but "the higher constitutional and human right to life and to health" of a kidney transplant patient who happens to be a prisoner awaiting the final outcome of the automatic review of his death sentence.

"At this critical point in his life and in the case, Lumanog seeks to secure his life, not his liberty. This is the main point for reconsideration, and we hope that the Honorable Court will have the largeness of mind, heart and soul to see this with the broader prism of constitutional and international human rights rather than the narrower prism of criminal procedure," said Santos in a "very urgent" motion for reconsideration that he filed before the Supreme Court yesterday.

Lumanog was one of the five men sentenced to death for the killing in 1996 of Rolando Abadilla, the notorious ex-colonel accused of numerous human rights violations during the regime of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The Abadilla 5, as they came to be known, said the police tortured them into admitting the crime. Their death sentence is now under review by the Supreme Court.

Lumanog, who underwent a critical kidney transplant operation in April, is confined at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute in Quezon City.

He filed a motion for homestay before the tribunal but this was denied on July 15. The high court said he could no longer be granted bail because he had been convicted of murder.

Though it did not order Lumanog's return to the New Bilibid Prison, the Supreme Court said the facilities of the prison hospital were enough for Lumanog's needs.

But Santos said taking Lumanog back to the crowded NBP hospital will not help but even worsen the convict's condition.

He noted that even Dr. Caesar Casanova Jr., Lumanog's physician at NKTI, has said that the convict must be transferred from the NKTI because the hospital was "a potential source of infection."

"If that is true for a specialist hospital like NKTI, then with more reason is it true for a prison hospital like that at the NBP," Soliman said.

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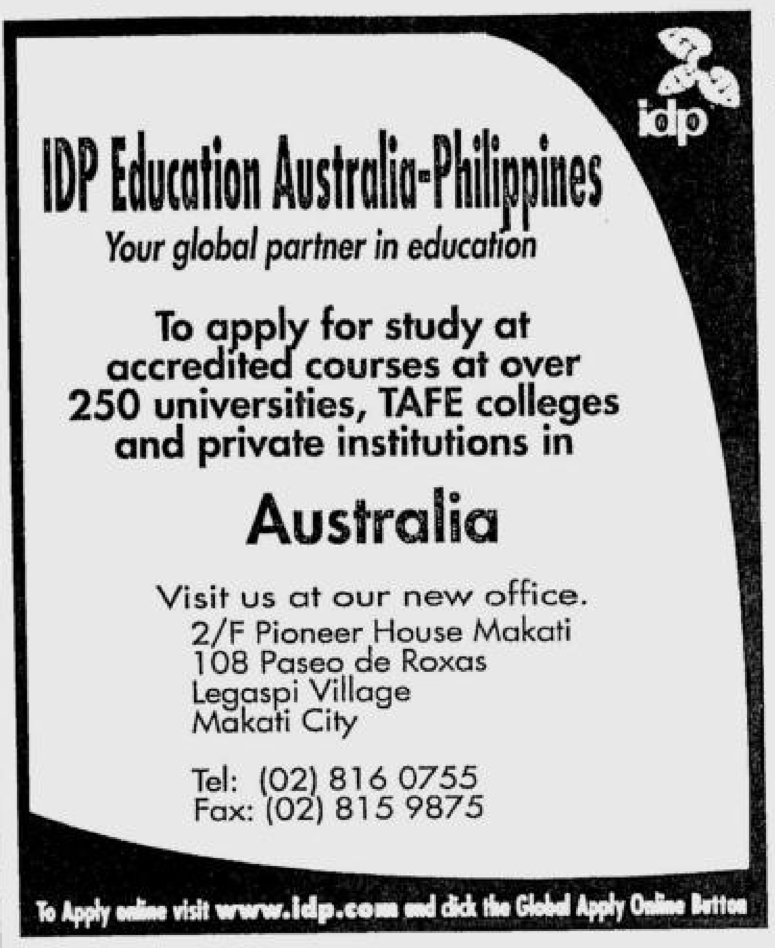
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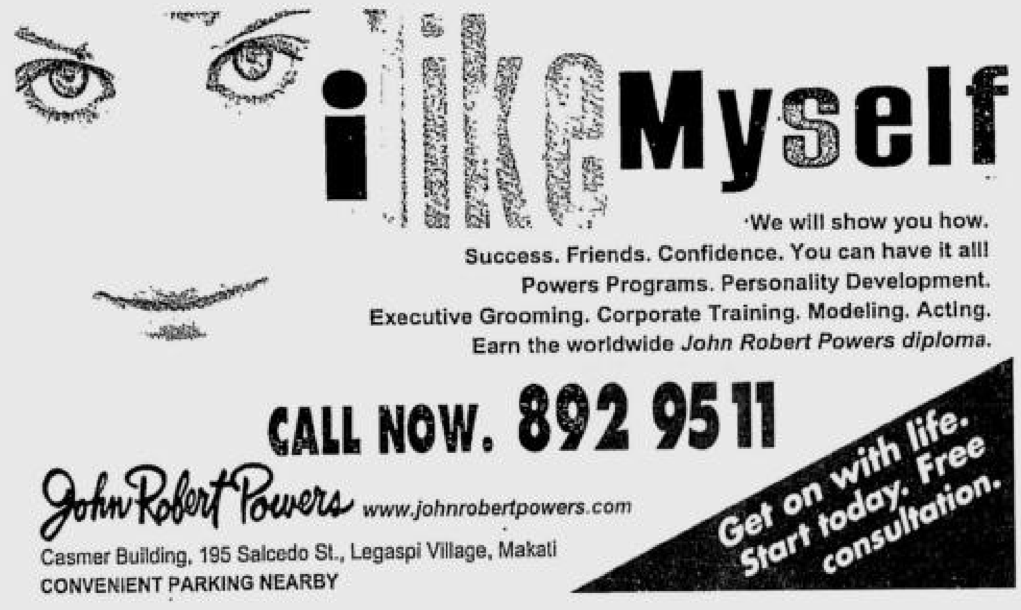
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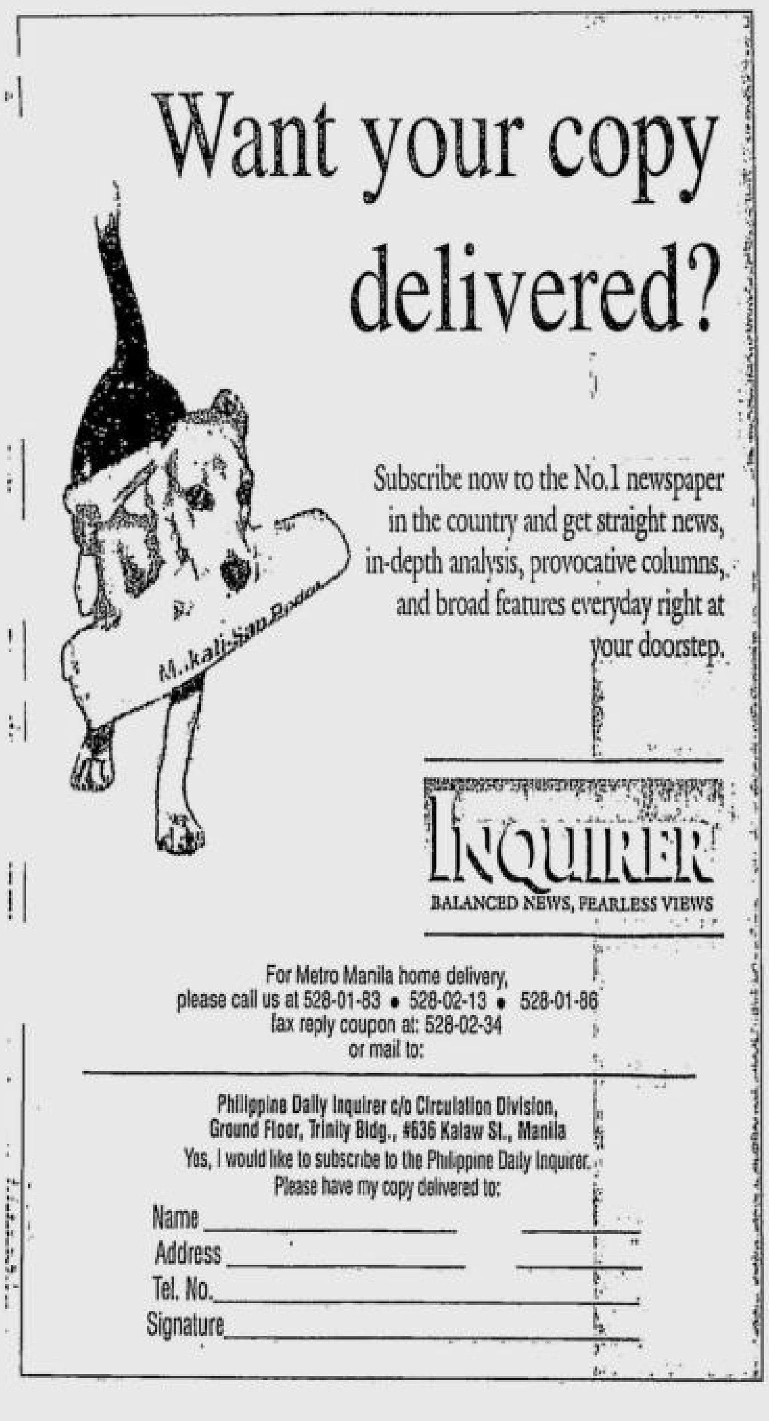
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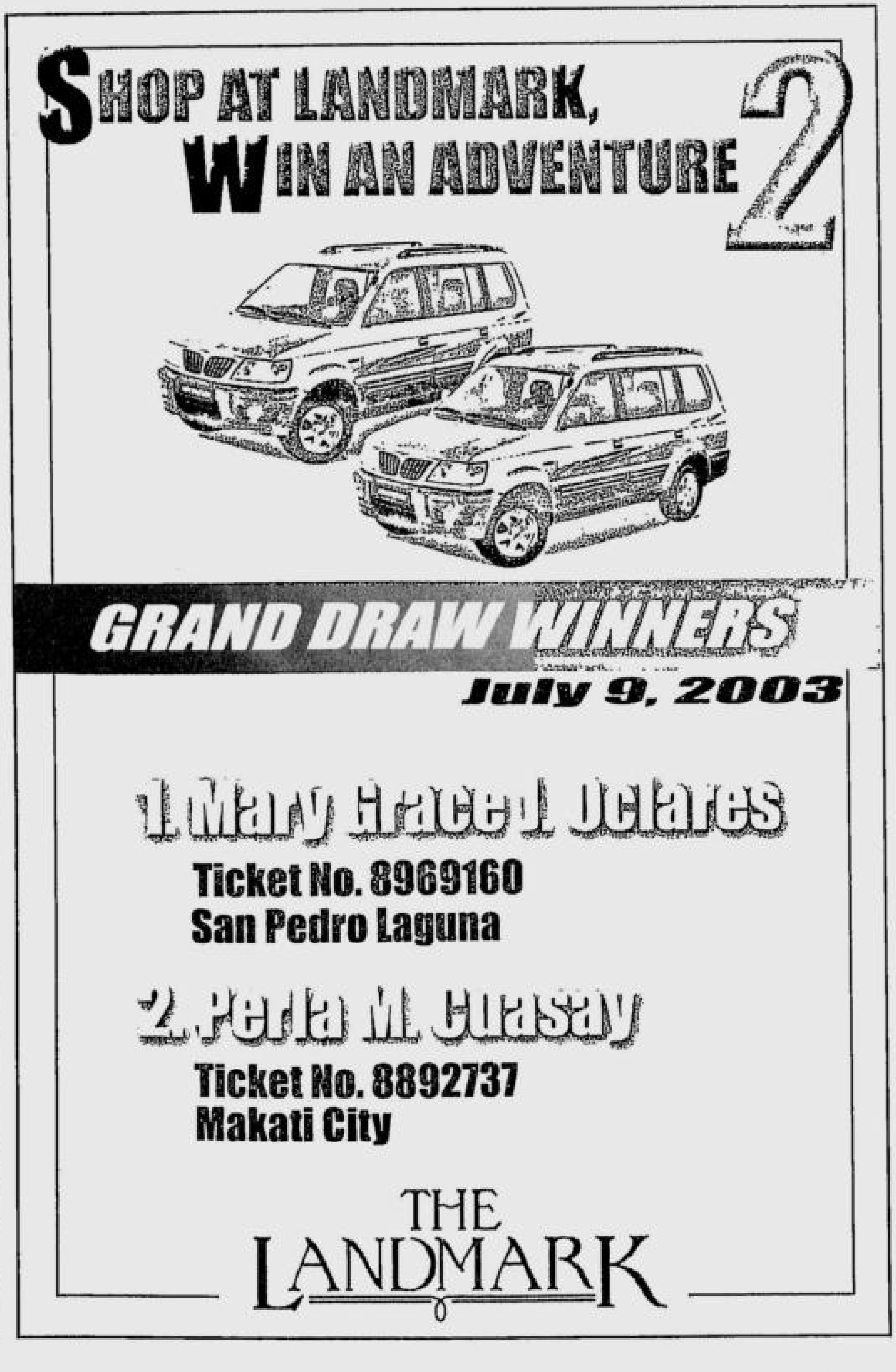
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GMA reiterates quest for peace

By Juliet L. Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has reiterated her administration's sincerity in forging a final peace settlement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"We will work with the MILF towards one final peace agreement that would silence the guns and seal a common future under the Constitution," the President said in a statement.

But she stressed that the armed forces would remain on active defense to protect communities.

"We have no intention to let down our guard as far as the security of our communities is concerned," she said, adding that the peace talks should not be derailed by "sporadic clashes or law enforcement operations. We are working with all stakeholders to insulate the peace process from tactical issues."

The two sides signed a mutual ceasefire last week and are waiting for the go-signal of host Malaysia for the resumption of negotiations.

In the meantime, as a confidence-building measure, the government announced on Friday the lifting of arrest warrants for MILF leaders charged with recent bombings in Mindanao, and the issuance of safe-conduct passes for rebel negotiators.

Defense officials said the MILF could reciprocate the gesture by capturing escaped Indon bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and handing him over to the government.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu earlier said the movement had advised members to capture Al-Ghozi, should he seek refuge in any of its camps, and bring him to the military command.

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Senators hit back at solons

By Christine O. Avendaño

IT was the turn of senators led by Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday to denounce congressmen for continued assault on the decision of the Senate committee on Constitutional amendments endorsing a Constitutional convention to tackle Charter change.

"More bluster than reality," was how Flavier described the congressmen's statements and recent warnings to reelectionist senators that they would face a backlash in the 2004 election because of their position to amend the Charter via a Con-con.

Pimentel said he was "saddened" by the congressmen's posture, and warned that if they continued to harden their position, "so will the senators."

"Lawmaking is always a democratic process," Pimentel said in a news briefing. "If you do not get one House to agree, it doesn't mean we should be enemies. It takes two to tango."

In a statement he also issued, Pimentel said the Senate and House should reach a compromise, or the Charter change resolution "will remain unapproved until the final adjournment of Congress by December."

The Senate committee last week voted 8-3-2 in favor of a Con-con to tackle proposals to amend the 1987 Charter. Flavier and Pimentel were among the eight.

On the other hand, as early as March, the House already approved a resolution to convene Congress into a constituent assembly (Consa).

Indeed, the Charter change resolution may be headed for non-approval, as Flavier said he would oppose any move to discuss the Consa during Senate deliberations on the committee report endorsing a Con-con.

Flavier made the statement in reaction to some congressmen's claim that the Consa could still be taken up by the Senate when deliberations on the committee report began.

The Senate president pro tempore, who authored Senate Bill #5 proposing a Con-con for Charter change, told reporters: "My understanding is that when we (Constitutional amendments committee members) participated in a straw vote, it was to determine what we would discuss on the floor. It would be very inconsistent to talk about Consa."

Reyes pledges to solve AFP housing woes

DEFENSE Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday said he was determined to solve the problems of housing, lack of incentives and low salary rates of young officers at the soonest possible time.

In a press statement, Reyes acknowledged the legitimate appeal of young officers of the Philippine Military Academy classes '94 and '95 as he vowed to help bring in major improvement and reforms in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

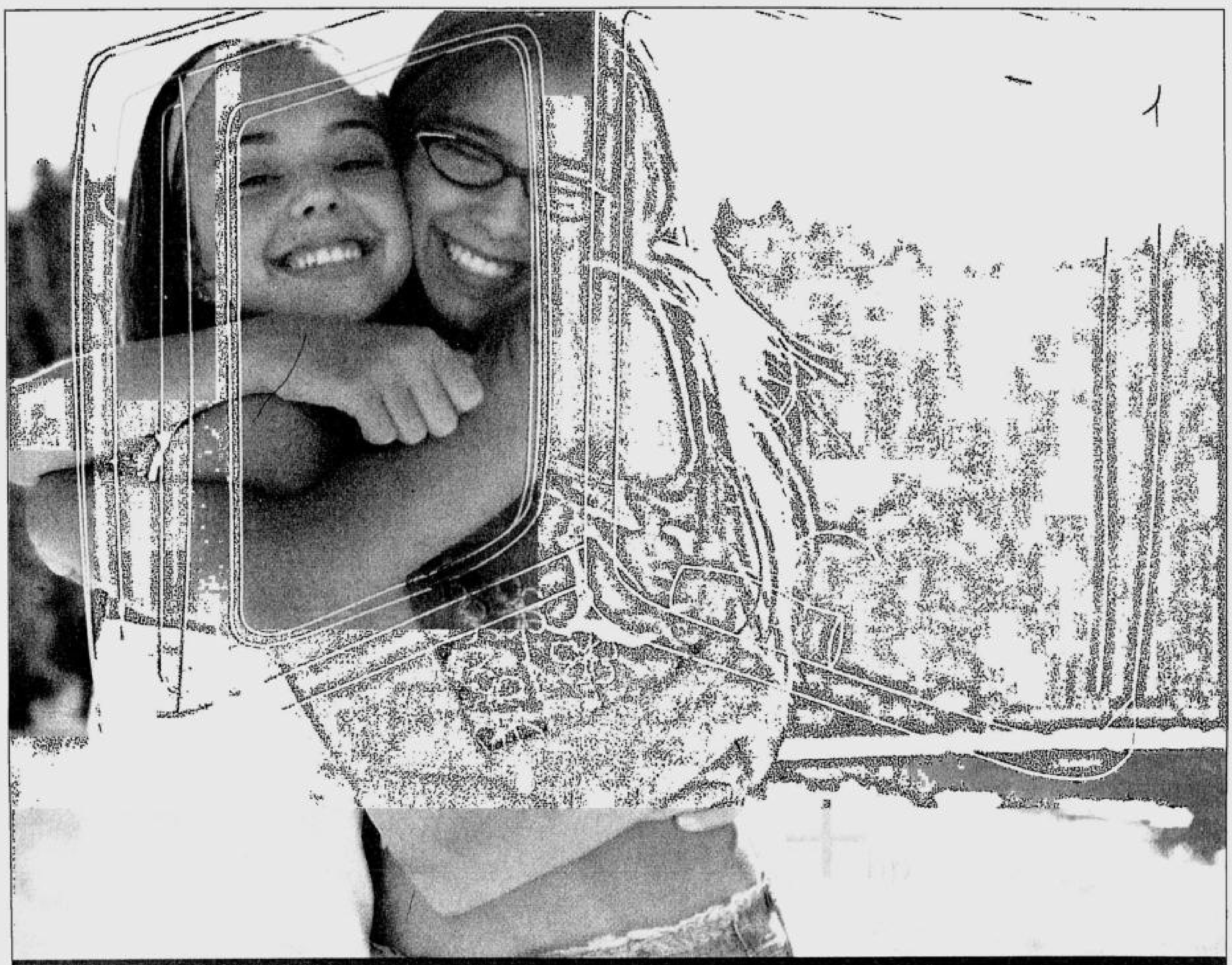
"We are seriously addressing their concerns. I assure them not to worry because were are finding ways to place things in their proper perspective," he said.

He said he had identified four ideal sites for the immediate construction of 1,000 housing units in a 20-hectare lot in Camp Riego de Dios in Tanza, Cavite; and three other housing projects in Camp Servillano Aquino in Tarlac; Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro; and Taguig, Metro Manila to be called as the AFP Officers Village.

The Off-Base Housing Program was recently launched by the Department of National Defense and AFP.

Plans are also underway for the development of 488 hectares of land in 11 more military camps that would benefit 35,000 military personnel.

"We want to ensure that officers and enlisted men as well as their families will have a decent housing," Reyes said.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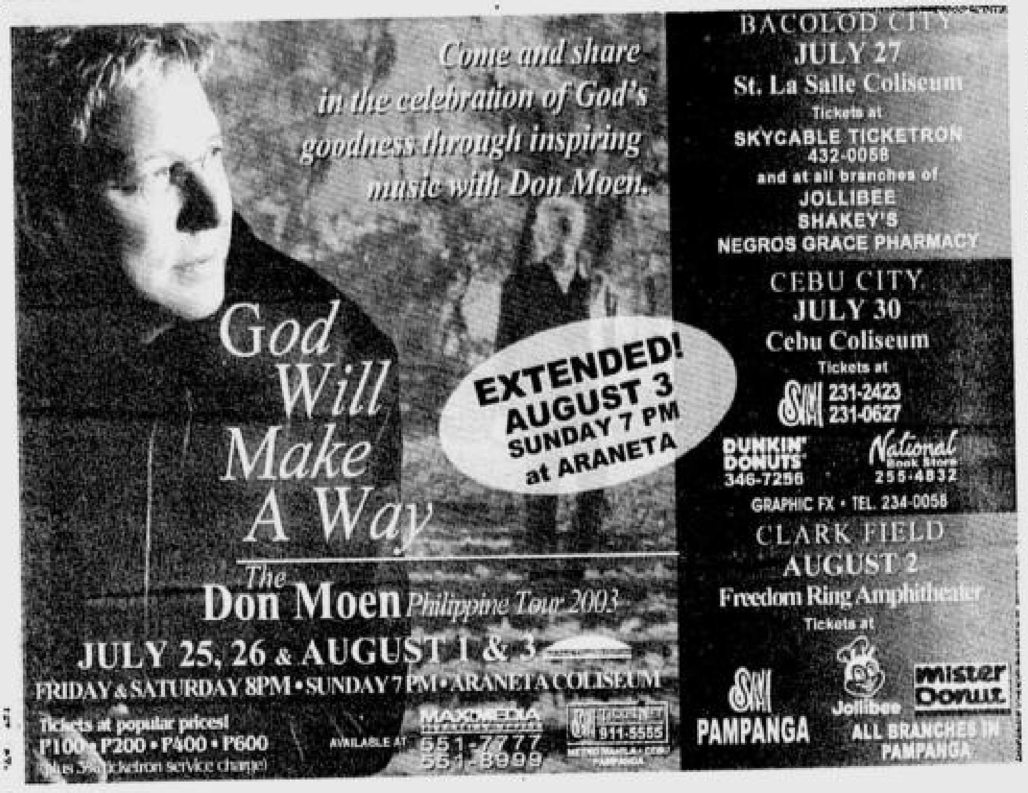
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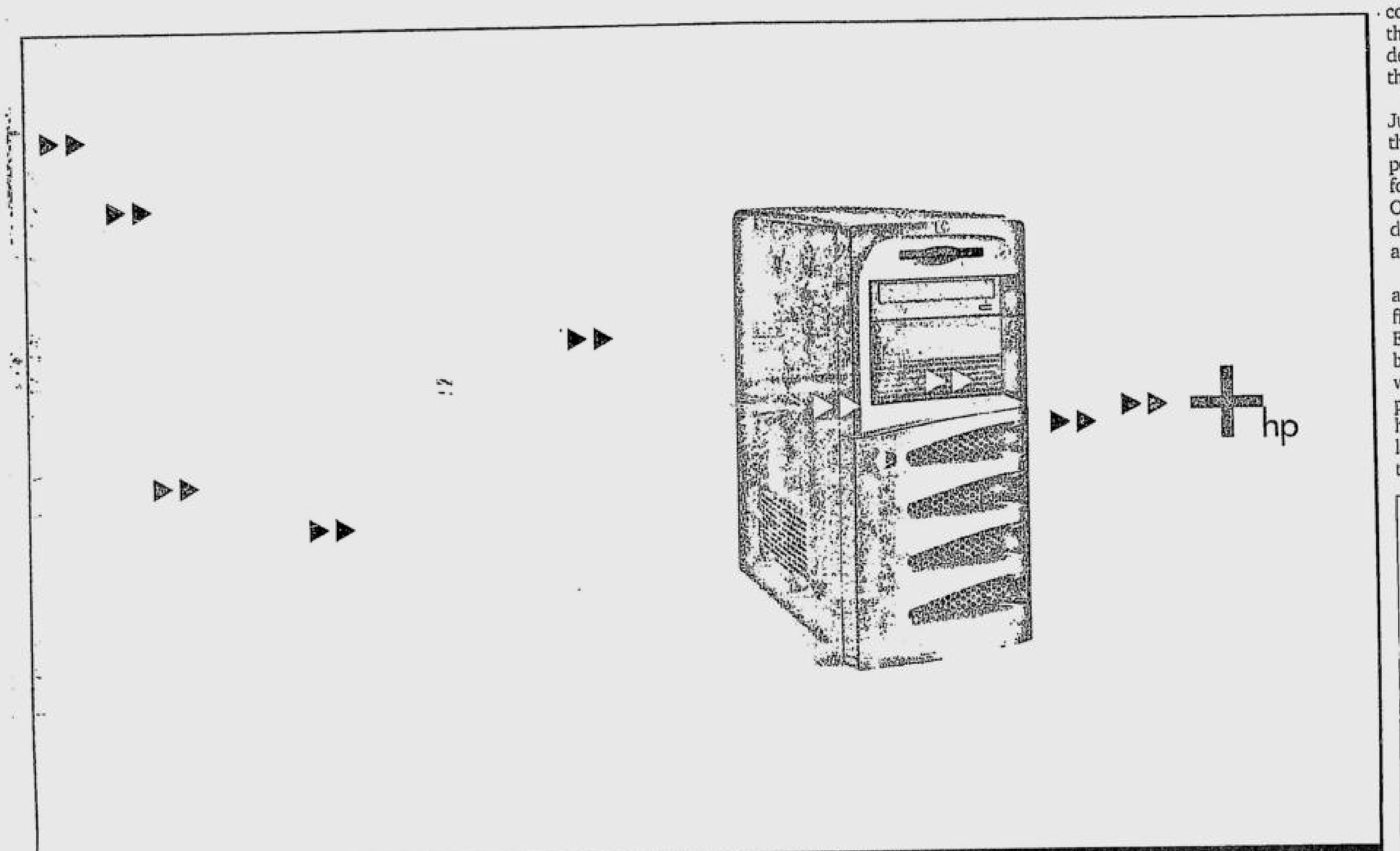
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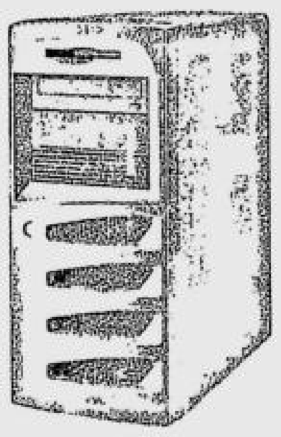
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3 acquitted OFWs home after 5 weeks, 350 lashes

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THREE overseas Filipino workers acquitted in the murder of a policeman in Saudi Arabia may be home in five weeks or so, after they get 350 lashes each for giving contradicting testimonies on the case.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople said he was awaiting "the safe return" of Joselito Alejo, Romeo Cordova, and Ramiro Esmero, currently in the custody of the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh.

The three were freed last year after five years in prison. But last July 9, Judge Mohammad Ibrahim al-Obad of the Riyadh Emergency Court ordered the lashing, saying the Filipinos had failed to report the murder of policeman Fahad al-Otaibi, and then provided testimonies contrary to their previous statements. Ople said the OFWs were fortunate to have avoided the death penalty "despite appeals by the family of the deceased."

The Philippine Embassy in Riyadh reported on July 14 that the decision would be forwarded to the Riyadh Court of Appeals for review. If the appellate court affirms Al-Obad's ruling, it will be forwarded to the Governor's Office for approval. Once the decision is approved, Al-Obad will order the Saudi police to implement the lashing and the Filipinos' deportation from the kingdom.

According to the DFA, the 350 lashes will be applied in increments of 70 once a week over a five-week period, to different parts of the body. Each lashing comes with a medical examination by Saudi authorities, after which the Filipinos will be remanded to the custody of the Philippine Embassy until the next round. Ople said he had instructed Ambassador Bahnarim Guinomla in Riyadh to closely monitor the progress of the case.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, July 23, 2003
16th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Ex 16:1-5, 9-15
Gospel:	Mt 13:1-9

Jesus left the house and sat down by the lakeside. As many people gathered around him, he got in a boat. There he sat while the whole crowd stood on the shore, and he spoke to them in parables about many things.

Jesus said, "The sower went out to sow and, as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground where there was little soil, and the seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was not deep. But as soon the sun rose the plants were scorched and withered because they had no roots. Again other seeds fell among thistles; and the thistles grew and choked the plants. Still other seeds fell on good soil and produced a crop; some produced a hundredfold, others sixty and others thirty. If you have ears, then hear!"

Commentary

Our disposition towards life is a most important factor in determining whether we end up successful and happy or frustrated and disappointed. However good the odds are, if a person has the attitude of a loser from the start, there's no way he'd succeed. Likewise, however difficult the odds stacked against him might be, if he believes in himself well enough, the chances of his doing well are greatly increased. The same situation holds true of our life of faith. However caring and loving God the Sower might be, however great the seeds he sows and seeks to plant in our hearts, a great deal of whether these will grow and bear fruit really depends on the 'soil' of our own disposition. If our hearts are thorny, or rocky, or simply infertile to receive his message, we can't expect it to grow and bear fruit. The most that we could expect is to see some growth for a while, only to see it whither and die later on. But if we are like 'good soil', fertile, ready, and eager to receive God's word and equally enthusiastic about putting it into practice in our everyday lives, the seeds planted in our hearts would not only grow, but would bear great fruit. God has planted the seeds of his message in our hearts. But it is up to us to have the right disposition, not only to accept it with our whole selves, but also to cooperate with it by nourishing it constantly.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LEGAL ETHICS—Duty of a notary public—Notarization is not an empty, meaningless, routinary act. It is invested with substantive public interest, such that only those who are qualified or authorized may act as notaries public. The protection of that interest necessarily requires that those not qualified or authorized to act must be prevented from imposing upon the public, the courts, and the administrative offices in general. It must be underscored that the notarization by a notary public converts a private document into a public document making that document admissible in evidence without further proof of the authenticity thereof. For this reason, notaries public must observe with utmost care the basic requirements in the performance of their duties. [Citations omitted.] [Resolution, Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, Lucente v. Evangelista, Jr., A.C. No. 5957, Feb. 4]

BY R. B. VERA

Roco hits 'demolition job' against him

FORMER Education Secretary and presidential aspirant Raul Roco has decried what he called a "political demolition" job against him after graft charges were filed against him before the Ombudsman.

His party, Aksyon Demokratiko, said the complaint filed by Department of Education employees was a "rehash" of the complaint filed by the same group before the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission last year.

"The charges filed by the DepEd (employees) union are false and baseless," Aksyon said in a statement.

"The rehashing of these charges... point to a political demolition," it went on, recalling the "Sulo Hotel operations of the Ronnie Puno group in the 1992 elections."

Roco's camp is referring to the alleged maneuvers of former interior secretary Ronaldo Puno just so former President Fidel Ramos would win.

Roco resigned from the Cabinet in July 2002 to protest President Macapagal-Arroyo's endorsement of the union's graft complaint to the PAGC.

In a complaint filed before the Ombudsman on Monday, the DepEd union cited three counts of graft against Roco.

These are his alleged unnecessary use of a helicopter when he inspected schools in Mt. Province and Benguet in October 2001; his having ordered the printing of some 350,000 posters bearing his image at the cost of P1.14 million without a public bidding; and his alleged failure to "seasonably remit" P74,814 in service fee collections in September 2001.

House sizzles with 'coup' talk

By Carlito Pablo

TALKS are sizzling in the House about a supposed plot to unseat Speaker Jose de Venecia.

And Rep. Florencio Abad (Batanes), president of the Liberal Party, has this much to say: "We have advised the Speaker to find out the source of grumbling."

"The earlier the Speaker talks to the different groups, the better for all," Abad said. "It's something serious that we have to attend to."

A source close to Majority Leader Rep. Neptali Gonzales II (Lakas, Mandaluyong) said that Gonzales is "willing to listen to quarters griping against the Speaker."

Gonzales is one of three House leaders touted to replace De Venecia, the two others being Rep. Vicente Sandoval (Lakas, Palawan) and Rep. Gilbert Teodoro (NPC, Tarlac).

"Gonzales wants to find out the expectations of those who want to see De Venecia out and if he can deliver on these expectations, he's open to taking the Speaker's seat," the source said.

"Gonzales, however, is not actively working to unseat De Venecia," the source said. "But it's true that anti-De Venecia sentiments are piling up."

Abad said that based on talks, Gonzales, Sandoval and Teodoro are indeed the three candidates being seen to replace De Venecia.

Abad explained that there is unrest in the House on a number of issues and "there might be a confluence of these."

One is the delay in releases of pork barrel funds, with congressmen still waiting for the first tranche of their funds this year.

Another is the perceived favoritism of the House leadership, with congressmen not receiving equal treatment.

One other issue involves the NPC, the party of businessman Eduardo Couangco Jr. who has been adversely affected by a recent Sandiganbayan ruling on the coconut levy issue.

Abad said: "The NPC is looking at it (change of leadership in the House) in a strategic way."

Abad also noted that the contingent of the ruling Lakas-UMD in the House is not united as a sizable number of them are openly rooting for Cojuangco's prospective presidential candidacy in 2004.

When sought for comment, Teodoro dismissed talk of a leadership change.

"There's nothing," Teodoro said.

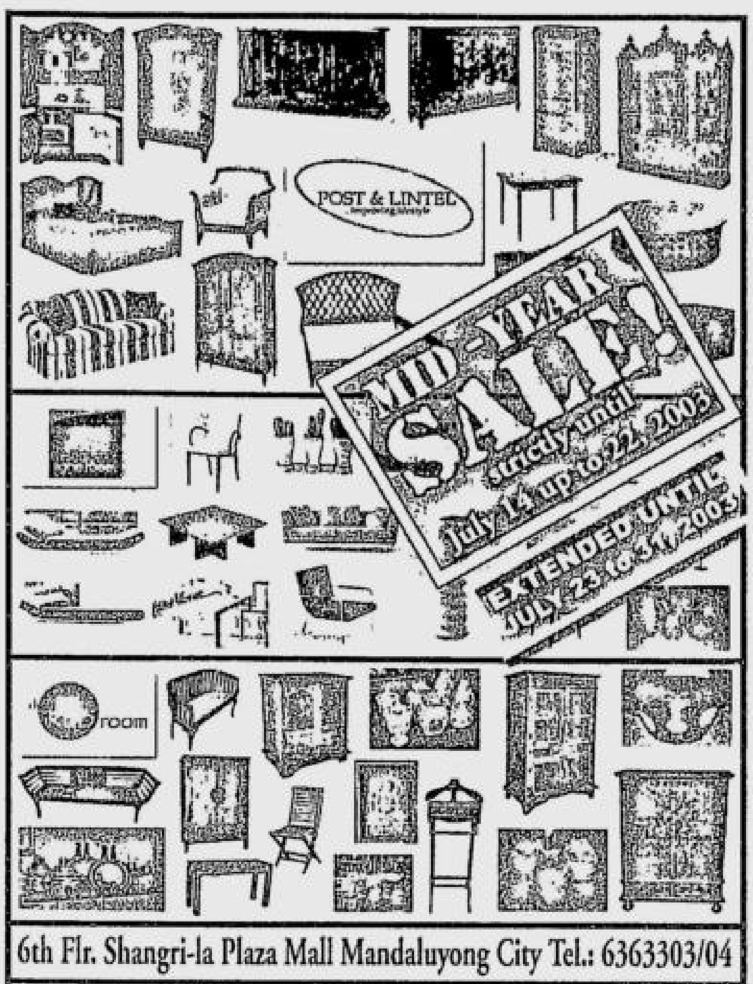
De Venecia is out of the country to attend a meeting of regional legislators in Indonesia.

House deputy secretary general for media Noel Albano said that the agreement between De Venecia and Cojuangco to preserve the Lakas-NPC alliance "stands firm."

"The two leaders have agreed to even strengthen the alliance and this holds true today," Albano said.

"We expect an orderly resumption of the session of Congress."

Congress will reopen on July 28 for President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address.



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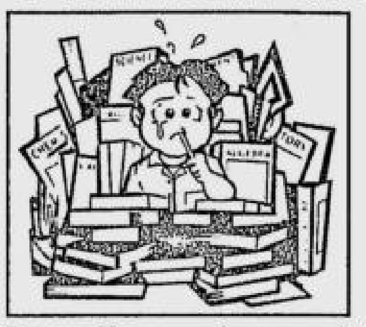

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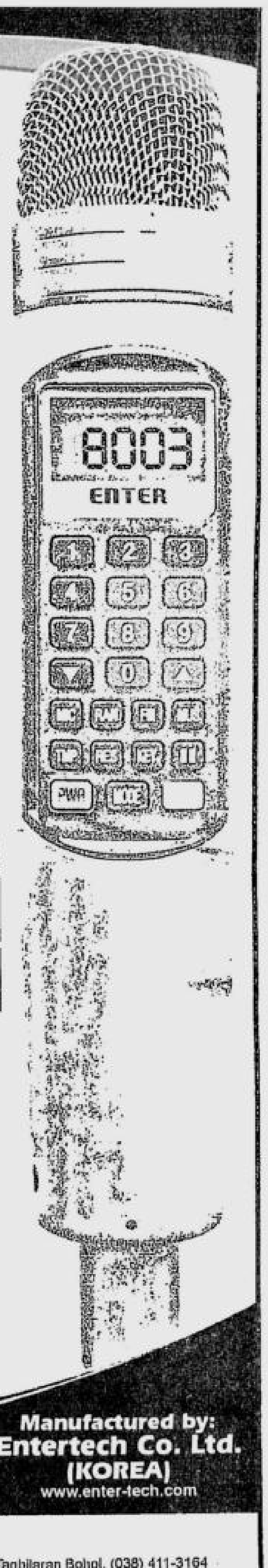

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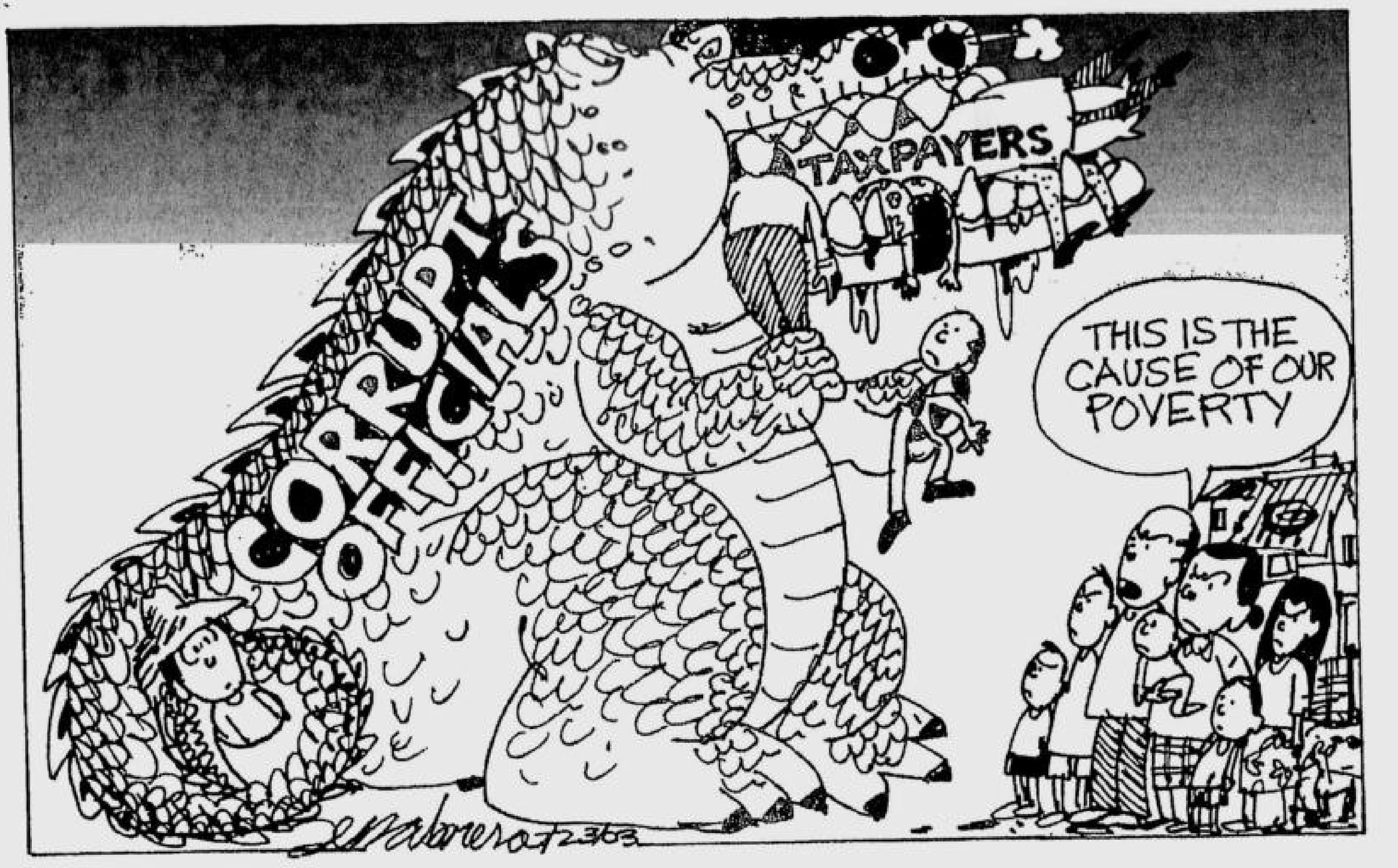

A good start

EDITORIAL

IT seems that the Macapagal administration is going after the big fish in a fresh campaign to combat graft and corruption in government. On Monday, the Department of Finance charged three ranking officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and one from the Bureau of Customs with unexplained wealth, falsification of public documents and other violations of the law. All were found after an investigation done by the DOF's Central Management Information Office (CMIO) to have acquired real estate and other property grossly disproportionate to their salaries.

Edwin Abella, an assistant BIR commissioner, declared all of his assets, including a cock farm and five residential lots in Novaliches, to be worth P10.2 million. The CMIO said they were worth at least P11 million, not counting a P10-million house in Quezon City. Another assistant BIR commissioner, Percival Salazar, whose declared assets totaled P5.9 million, allegedly owned a big house and lot in Quezon City as well as a printing company that in turn owned several pieces of real estate. Lucien Sayuno, who resigned as BIR regional director a few months back, allegedly owned three companies, a house and lot in the posh Ayala Alabang Village, a fleet of 12 luxury vehicles and membership in four golf clubs. Manuel Valencia, Customs warehousing chief, was discovered to have $3.8 million (about P200 million) in bank deposits aside from owning five residential lots in Parañaque.

Finance Assistant Secretary Emmanuel Bonoan, CMIO chief, said the evidence they had against the four was a product of seven months of careful investigation. "We would not drag innocent persons into these cases," he said.

The three revenue officials are, however, saying that the CMIO had been less than thorough in its investigation. Abella said he did not own the P10-million Xavierville property and said he had always declared his incomes from various teaching jobs. Salazar said his family had other sources of income aside from his salary. Besides, he added, "I am not exactly poor. I already drove a car when I was studying at the Ateneo." Sayuno also said he "did not enter the revenue service a pauper." Moreover, he said, the assets being credited to him were "not of the magnitude that they were made to appear" and everything his family owned was a "product of diligent work."

One thing is clear: If these revenue officials were not exactly poor when they joined the government service, they were not exactly impoverished by the burden of raising families on monthly salaries not exceeding P25,000—and that only after they rose to their present positions. And it certainly looks very curious that with all those millions they claimed to have acquired legally, they would work eight hours a day and five days a week. Even curiouser is that they would remain in the service for 22 years (as in the case of Abella) or even 40 years (in the case of Salazar) while earning what must have been a pittance for multimillionaires like them. Wouldn't they have been better off managing their very substantial assets?

If these officials indeed acquired their riches honestly, they ought to be given medals for their long, loyal service to the nation. Meanwhile, they have to show proof of how they came by so much wealth and possessions legally. That's what the law on ill-gotten wealth requires of them. This law turns on its head the legal principle that presumes the innocence of an accused until he is proven guilty by asserting that if the assets of any public official are disproportionate to his income, then such assets are deemed to be ill-gotten.

That promises to be a tough undertaking and these officials better start it pronto instead of crying out that they are being tried by publicity. If that was the malicious intention, then the public missed the grand presentation of the suspects to the media, like what happened to Land Bank cashier Acsa Ramirez. Instead President Macapagal-Arroyo was reduced to reacting and hailing the development as "a great moment in our fight against graft and corruption."

Indeed this is a good beginning. And Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho has said at least 41 other BIR officials will soon be facing graft charges. But the people will believe a real anti-graft campaign has been mounted only when bigger fish, like congressmen, senators and Cabinet members, are caught in the net.

There are two coco levy funds

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE SQUABBLING over the coco levy funds and the Marcos loot even before the court decisions have become final and executory reminds us of scavengers—vultures, hyenas and jackals—fighting over the carcass of an animal. And the predators who start eating their victim even before it is dead. Associations of coconut farmers, claimants in the human rights abuse case, and congressmen (this is not surprising) are already fighting for shares in the twin bonanzas.

But it is not that simple to get those funds. The courts awarded the coco levy funds not to the coconut farmers, and the Marcos loot not to the claimants, but to the government. They won't get a single centavo unless the government, through an act of Congress, decides to share it with them.

Existing laws mandate that all recovered ill-gotten wealth should go to the land reform program. And the court decision in the United States awarding a sum from the Marcos estate to the human rights claimants is not enforceable here in the Philippines, another sovereign country.

The Sandiganbayan, on the other hand, has declared the coco levy funds as tax money which therefore belongs to the government.

In yesterday's INQUIRER, President Macapagal-Arroyo was reported as setting aside P8 billion of the P38 billion Marcos loot for the claimants. But not even the President can do that. All expenses from public funds must first be appropriated by Congress. If you spend anything without a congressional appropriation, that would be estafa through misappropriation of public funds. So Congress will first have to amend the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, and then appropriate the P8 billion for the claimants. And you know how slow Congress can be in appropriating funds unless some of them are left on their sticky fingers.

Besides, the Supreme Court decision forfeiting the Marcos loot in favor of the Philippine government must first have to be approved by Swiss authorities. Because one of the conditions for releasing the amounts held in escrow is that the Swiss must be convinced that the trial of the Marcoses was "fair."

But the Marcoses claim that the decision was not fair. In fact, there was not even a trial at all, according to Marcos family lawyer Roberto Sison in last Monday's Kapihan sa Manila.

The Supreme Court granted a petition by the government for "summary judgment" on the ill-gotten wealth case against the Marcoses filed only two years ago. But there has been no trial yet, said Sison, no presentation of evidence either by the prosecution or the defense. The prosecution has not presented evidence that the wealth was ill-gotten, he said. And the Marcoses have not been accorded the right to present evidence that the wealth was "lawfully acquired." In other words, they were denied due process. And when there is no due process, the court decision is void from the very beginning. This is enshrined in our basic rights mandated by the Constitution.

To be fair, however, the Court must have abbreviated the proceedings because the facts are obvious. The Marcoses claim that the deposits in the Swiss banks were not theirs but admitted that they were the beneficiaries. They belonged to different foundations, five of them, they said.

Who are behind these foundations? The Marcoses can't say. Why have they not come forward all these years to claim these deposits? And why would they bestow such huge amounts on the Marcoses? Not just one but five anonymous foundations have made the Marcoses their beneficiaries. Why, what have the Marcoses done for them that they would be so generous to them? If the Marcoses have done them a favor in the past, why don't they (the Marcoses) know who they are?

The coco levy issue is just as thorny. Do you know that there are two coco levy funds? Only one was covered by the Sandiganbayan decision.

The first one was collected by the Philippine Coconut Authority (Philcoa) before martial law under Republic Act 6260. The money is now deposited in the Development Bank of the Philippines, according to former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, the other guest at Monday's Kapihan. Who is managing these funds, nobody knows.

The other coco levy was collected starting in 1973, also by the PCA, under several martial law decrees. This was the money used to buy the First United Bank of the Cojuangcos, now the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB), which, in turn, bought the shares of San Miguel Corp. that enabled Danding Cojuangco to grab control of that biggest Philippine corporation.

Since the original money was taxes paid by the coconut farmers for every kilo of copra sold, that is public money, the courts said, and it should therefore go to the government.

No, it should go back to the coconut farmers, said the camp of Danding Cojuangco, since the law that set up the fund specifically stated that it would be used for the coconut industry. That's right, Danding is not claiming the money; he already got 10 percent of it as legitimate commission.

But who are these coconut farmers? Alas, only those who have receipts and registered with the Cocofed. But since Cocofed president (and Zamboanga City mayor) Maria Clara Lobregat holds so many proxies for the coconut farmers, she would be the biggest winner here. Better than winning the lotto.

Another tail wagging the dog

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

PROSPERO Pichay Jr., chair of the House committee on national defense, had some very interesting things to say last weekend. Malacañang, he said, ought to discipline the military officers who have been raising gripes outside the chain of command. It is not that they pose a threat to national security, it is that they threaten to demoralize the corps, which is the last thing we need in light of our current war against terrorism.

The officers, he said, really have no business complaining because the administration has been most responsive to them. "It is only under this administration that their concerns are being fully addressed." Only last year, he said, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed into law a bill increasing their salaries. The law provides for three installments, the final one due early next year. "Once the law is fully implemented, the government would be spending P6 billion a year to meet the salary increases of military men alone."

Quite apart from that, he said, GMA has made housing for soldiers a priority of the government.

These comments are not an indictment of restive military officers, they are an indictment of the military itself. More than that, they are an indictment of a policy that makes pampering the military the No. 1 priority of the government. That is the tail wagging the dog.

At the very least, the problems being raised by the military officers are internal. They were the same problems raised by the RAM and YOU in Marcos' time, chiefly, corruption within the ranks, which is dividing the military into a few rich and privileged generals and a teeming mass of poor and demoralized cannon-fodder.

Pichay says that so far the threat of a coup seems remote, or undoable. But if the officers' problems have to do with the above, why on earth would they want to mount a coup at all? All they need to do is expose their senior officers who are skimming off the fat of the land, or the milk of AFP largesse. All they need to do is make sure that the spoils of war are distributed evenly among themselves. What has the rest of the world got to do with that?

But that shows us the true nature of the problem. Which is that we have a military that has become a spoiled brat and a government determined to stop its tantrums by mollifying it with more candies and a couple of balloons thrown in. Pichay is right about the Macapagal administration's generosity to the military. Even before GMA signed the bill giving the soldiers added pay, she gave them other things. In fact, the very first thing she did after taking over from Erap was to announce in Baguio, along with announcing as well that Teofisto Guingona was going to be her vice president, that she would be giving the soldiers housing and other benefits.

Indeed, even before that, during her inauguration speech itself at the Edsa Shrine, she praised the help given by Angelo Reyes and the AFP in toppling Erap while noting only in passing the contributions of the activists and the NGOs. When Reyes and company stormed into Edsa only when Erap's rule had become untenable while the activists and NGOs had been protesting against Erap from when he decided to bury Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. Seemingly an oversight on the part of GMA's speechwriters, that particular valuation of the relative contributions of people to Edsa II provided the linchpin for GMA's subsequent partiality to Reyes and company over everybody else.

That partiality has been solidified by the atrocity called the "war against terror," which has become this government's obsession over the last couple of years and which has catapulted the AFP back into pretty nearly the same privileged position it enjoyed during Marcos' time. This country's local and foreign policy is no longer being dictated by the Cabinet and the foreign affairs department, it is being dictated by Angelo Reyes, Roilo Golez and their patrons at the White House and the Pentagon. Little wonder that when some officers become restive, the government becomes restless.

The solution is neither to discipline the restive officers nor to give them what they want. It is not even to ask them to be patient, which Pichay does, too. It is to reexamine our national priorities and change them. This country's most vicious enemy is not terrorism, it is poverty and ignorance. It isn't just a question of priorities, it is a question of justice. Terrorism is largely a figment of the fevered imagination of GMA and her military advisers, given pale substance by labeling pretty much everyone it doesn't like, from the NPA to the MILF, "terrorist."

Poverty and ignorance are as real as you and me. If this administration should fully address anybody's concerns, it is not those of soldiers, it is those of rural workers and public school teachers. They are the ones who deserve better pay, better conditions of work, and housing and other benefits.

Yet if I recall right, the last time the public school teachers mounted a "coup," which was to go on strike in the early 1990s during Isidro Cariño's time, they were fired en masse. Most of them never got reinstated. The last time the military mounted a coup, their leaders got to do pushups. Most of them now own businesses. One has become a senator, and is now free to stoke restiveness among the young officers again.

The logic there apparently is that the military holds a gun to this country's head and therefore has to be persuaded to put it down. That overlooks the fact that public school teachers do the same, too. They hold a gun to this country's head, especially to that of its children and youth. Except that you won't see the gun because it's not pressed to the head.

It is inside it.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

A time for growth

HIGH BLOOD

Alfredo C. Nem Singh

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

"GROW old along with me," Robert Browning said. "The best is yet to be—the last for which the first was made."

No one should be afraid of growing old. Or even think of it, for it will only hasten the process. We who are at the threshold should consider the stage not as a time for growing old but as a time for growing up. Then we should proceed with faith and courage.

When I was working still with International Harvester-Macleod Inc., I was not only doing work in the office but also taking up the cudgels for hundreds of men, as president of the labor union. Then when I was vice president of the Federation of Free Workers, I had to do some traveling to Germany upon the invitation of the Adenauer Foundation and to the Soviet Union to represent Philippine labor in a Media Peace Council. I was also taking up MBA courses at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila. I was very busy.

When I turned 60 and I was handed my retirement papers, I asked myself, "Is this the end of my working life?"

I looked for another job and found one, and I knew that my fears were foolish. I worked as personnel manager of the FFW and again worked with the companies affiliated with the federation.

Like my wife Rose, I found blessings in joining church groups. Being a rector and commentator in our parish church has been a very rewarding experience. I also helped her write for and edit our parish newsletter.

At home, my contributions to the household chores are always welcome. I wash plates, help in cleaning the house and baby-sit. With all the work I do, who would think that I could find time to read the INQUIRER almost from cover to cover, watch movies on cable TV, and play basketball with my sons? But I do find time for these and many other activities.

Here is a poem that says exactly what I mean:

Old age is still a time for growth;
Let us grow well growing old,
So many things to do;
Music and ivory and gold
Need not be new;
There is healing in old trees,
Old streets a beauty hold;
Why should not we as well as these
Grow well, growing old?

Sure we have grown old, but we have grown not only in years but also in learning, in experience and in love. Because of the wisdom of long experience and the love that has come to full blossom, we have more understanding hearts, mellower tempers and moods, more broadminded attitudes and sense of values.

When I speak of growth, I include spiritual as well as mental growth. Surely we have physical weaknesses and limitations due to our ripening years, but we also have greater strengths and effectiveness on certain aspects of life and wider visions.

Rose and I take every day and every hour as a new beginning. Growing old is said to be an ongoing project. It makes no difference what the past has been. The present and the future are all we feel we should be concerned with.

Of course, the time will come when, whether we like it or not, our failing abilities and weakened senses will force us to slow down. Although we must keep growing as long as we can, solitude and quiet have their own blessings. We will then have more time to smell the roses, a privilege denied to us when we were young.

Our love for nature has been reawakened in recent years. Rose and I have agreed that we would not put up curtains that block the merry sunshine from coming into our room and deny us a view of the bougainvilleas, palms, poinsettias and other plants outside. The atis and other fruit trees at the side and back of our house are a haven for the singing birds we listen to every morning.

We can now be so close to God that we can make His love shine through us to our loved ones. Perhaps we cannot protect them from pain. We can only stand there with them, and pray not exactly for an easy way out but that they be given the strength and the courage to bear it all.

Who will remember us years after we are gone? Not the famous, but the ordinary people, our children and children's children whose lives we have touched with words of counsel and loving words that gave hope. These people to whom we spoke about Jesus and Mary and about kindness, honesty and nobility.

We are very proud of our children and grandchildren. They have all grown well and lovely. We thank God first of all for this and are grateful that the love and good examples we set have not been in vain.

Beautiful thoughts, concern and caring—what could be better for the soul as well as for the body? They make living such a pleasure.

Once I found a poem left on a friend's table which I would now like to share. It must have inspired many who led good and dedicated lives:

He has achieved success who has lived well,
laughed often, and loved much;
Who has gained the respect of intelligent men,
and the love of little children;
Who has filled his niche, and accomplished his task,
Who has left the world better than he found it,
whether by a perfect poem or a rescued soul;
Who has always looked for the best in others
and given the best he had;
Whose life was an inspiration;
Whose memory was a benediction.

Alfredo C. Nem Singh, 69, a retired supervisor of the International Harvester-Macleod Inc., loves to read, recite poetry, sing and garden.

A feeling for home

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FILIPINOS abroad have many ways of coping with distance and the inevitable longing for home. For many, the way to assuage the hunger for home is quite literal: reacquainting the palate with the flavors, textures, aromas and memories of family and fiesta fare. For others, homesickness is alleviated by frequent gatherings of family—by blood or choice. And if two or more Filipinos are gathered, could public singing be far behind?

Increasingly, though, the sense of community for Filipinos abroad has been taking on a public profile, through public events that celebrate the Filipino identity in an adopted land, assert the existence of our own ethnic enclaves in the midst of foreign landscapes, while strengthening the bonds to home, history and heartscape of individual migrants, even, or especially, of children who may have grown up with only a vague idea of what the "homeland" is or was like.

Nothing more effectively establishes this connection with home than art—paintings, photos, books, poetry, song, dance and performance—that evoke not just memory and nostalgia, but also awareness of one's self and place in this world.

* * *

RECENTLY, the Filipino community in Seattle had the opportunity to hark back to the past and to the homeland by way of a performance mounted by the Filipino American Community of South Puget Sound (FACSPS) based in Olympia. The group's Lakbay Sining, in the words of Juan Pablo "JP" Paredes, who wrote a review in Fil-American Bulletin, "presented a performance not normally offered as part of the Filipino cultural scene like folk dance, chorus, ethnic dress, artifacts and food."

Lakbay Sining presented a play, "Sa Muling Pagkakataon," directed and produced by Rufino Ignacio, at the Fisher Pavilion, which Paredes described as "a cavernous building not particularly suited for acoustics. Half of the venue was dedicated to all sorts of booths, including a karaoke with people milling about creating all sorts of noise and buzz." The stage, said Paredes, "was a temporary affair, lacking the full amenities of a theater platform—lighting was bright and static and the props could not be easily manipulated out of sight of the audience'. There was only one entryway for actors."

But if the success of a stage performance is judged by the way it connects with its audience, then "Sa Muling Pagkakataon" was a "rousing hit," said Paredes. "The play, which combines drama with comedy, had the audience alternately in tears, raucous laughter, hearty cheers and hoots of appreciative reaction. That was audience participation at its best that only a Ruffy Ignacio and his actors could get away with."

Based on a teleplay by Rene Villanueva and originally directed for TV by the late National Artist Lino Brocka, "Sa Muling Pagkakataon" tells the story of the widow Bining (Marlene Ignacio) and her three grown-up children: Ludy, the eldest (Roselia Legaspi), Helen (Imelda Mulato), and Vina, the youngest (Imee Cornelio). One year after being widowed, Bining's first love and boyfriend Renato (Ruffy Ignacio) offers his love anew. Bining's children are, of course, vehemently opposed to the idea. Bining's friend Sonya (Marilou Belmes) acts as the bridge between her and Renato.

"Does Bining have a second chance at love? What kind of a man is Renato? The play skimmed through life as life can," observed Paredes.

* * *

ROUNDING out the cast were: Josie Paet, Myrna Garcia, Alex Deluao and Kristelle Paet for props and backdrop, and Mark Diaz for music arrangement.

Wrote Paredes: "The music alone is nostalgic of loves past, 11 excerpts of songs that make everyone's heart recall the days of youth and days gone by as only romantic singers like Nat King Cole, Ruben Tagalog and other popular favorites could." And boy, did the audience identify with the characters!

"Somebody from the audience shouted '*Sinungaling!*' (Liar!) when Renato said he loved only Bining. The audience erupted in guffaws when Bining said '*... Anong akala mo sa akin...porke biyuda, basta-basta...*' or when Renato came out wearing a bathrobe. Tears flowed, almost to a person, when Bining related her sacrifices for the family. They exhaled an audible sigh of relief when Bining came out wearing a wedding dress. All of the scenes were poignant and touched suppressed feelings in everyone."

* * *

THE MOST moving scene for Paredes did not take place during the performance, but afterwards. "With tears in her eyes, Consuelo Llamas, 79, approached Marlene, hugged her and confessed that the storyline was like her life. The emotion was so palpable, I could feel Consuelo's wish to relive her youth, perhaps to change her past, to go back to her own 'Renato.' Manang Consuelo left only after she got the autographs of Marlene and Rufino."

Paredes reports that several non-profit service organizations have requested Ruffy and his crew of amateurs, housewives, executives, retirees and other moonlighting thespians to restage the play. Mabuhay TV, a local cable channel for Filipino-Americans, also said it would air portions of the play, adding that "*...marami kayong tinamaang damdamin, maraming pinaiyak ng kanilang alaala...* (...you evoked so many emotions, many in the audience were moved to tears by their memories...)"

Ruffy said it best for himself and his band of theater artists: "I feel good about doing something related to culture for the motherland, and to actually help our people satisfy their thirst for something unexplainable. Sometimes we can do more for the Philippines while based in America than actually being there."

Anti-Muslim rage hurts others too

FEATURE

Greg Frost

BEDFORD, Massachusetts—"Go back to Iraq!" the young men shouted as they beat and kicked the pizza delivery man in the face, breaking his jaw in three places.

They bound his thin body with a rope, stuffed a sock in his mouth to muffle his screams for help and used the back of his neck as an ashtray. They stuffed him into the trunk of a car, where he managed to set himself free—only to be stabbed.

The victim of this Massachusetts attack was neither a Muslim nor an Iraqi but a Hindu from the central Indian city of Indore. He tried to make this clear to his assailants but his entreaties fell on ignorant ears.

Weeks after the attack left him with a pierced lung and liver and sipping his meals through a straw, 24-year-old Saurabh Bhalerao showed little emotion as he recounted the grisly details of what he called "an isolated incident." But the attack may be part of a wider trend. A new report by the Council on American-Islamic Relations revealed hostility, discrimination and violence have risen in America against Muslims and people simply presumed to be Muslims.

"They didn't even know the difference between India and Iraq," Bhalerao, his jaw wired, told Reuters.

Bhalerao took a job in June at a pizzeria to support his studies at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. On his second day on the job, he was ambushed delivering a $10 pizza to a home in New Bedford.

"I told them to take my money," he recalled. "One of them may have noticed my accent because they immediately started beating me harder. They kept on screaming: 'Go Back to Iraq!'"

When the beating intensified, Bhalerao began to wonder if he would make it through alive.

"They had probably planned to rob me at first. But the way they started treating me because they thought I was from the Middle East—I could see the hate in their behavior," the graduate student said.

Ignorance is among the reasons for a 15 percent increase in anti-Muslim violence, discrimination and harassment

Police believe the attack began as a robbery but escalated into something more brutal. Hate crime charges have been filed against four men, along with charges of attempted murder, kidnapping, robbery and other crimes.

Bhalerao said the attack has not changed his feelings about the United States, although he is concerned by what he sees as ignorance in America about the rest of the world.

The attack against Bhalerao marked the second time in seven months that non-Muslim Indians have been victims of anti-Muslim hate crimes in Massachusetts alone.

Indians have been subjected to similar attacks or acts of discrimination elsewhere in the country. In May, a Sikh in Arizona was shot twice by assailants who reportedly yelled "Go back to where you belong." Last year in New York, three young men warned another Sikh "not to bomb another building." The incidents have the Indian-American community worried.

"A segment of our community is at high risk," said Ravi Sakhuja, a leader of an Indian-American political group in New England. "Some people are looking at all of us and saying, 'Oh, they're all Muslims.'"

Mohamed Nimer, director of research at the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said ignorance is "rampant" in America and is among the reasons for a 15 percent increase in anti-Muslim violence, discrimination and harassment in 2002.

In a report issued this month, Nimer said anger about the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and "discriminatory" government policies like the USA Patriot Act have combined to make America a risky place for Muslims and those perceived to be Muslim.

"It's more dangerous than ever," said Nimer, noting that Sikhs, Hindus, and even non-Muslim Hispanics have been the target of anti-Muslim violence. "It doesn't matter if you're Muslim or not."

Stoking the flames of hate, he says, is anti-Islamic rhetoric from Christian preachers like Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson and Franklin Graham, son of the Reverend Billy Graham.

Falwell prompted deadly Hindu-Muslim clashes in India last year when he described the prophet Mohammed as a "terrorist" and Robertson made headlines in December when he called Muslims "worse than Nazis." Graham, who gave the sermon at President George W. Bush's 2001 inauguration, angered Muslims after the Sept. 11 attacks when he called Islam a "very evil and wicked religion."

"When you have leaders who talk this way...it's no wonder you get some people who are willing to go and attack," Nimer said. "Some people really believe the Islamic mosque next door is the place where bombing attacks are being hatched and they say: 'Let's get them before they get us.'"

Reuters

The UN's human development index

COMMENTARY

Natalia M.L.M. Morales

JUST a few weeks before President Macapagal-Arroyo gives a report on how much better the Filipino quality of life has become during her two and a half years in office, the United Nations Human Development Report was released to the public on July 8. The UN report provides a solid basis for judging Philippine performance.

The report on 175 countries is hardly encouraging. It found out that 54 countries, nearly half of them located in Africa, are in a much poorer condition today than in the early 1990s when the Human Development Index (HDI) was adopted. The HDI is an attempt to broaden the definition of development by including both economic and social indicators. The index combines three factors: opportunity for long and healthy lives (life expectancy), educational attainment (adult literacy rate and school enrollment), and standard of living (gross domestic product or GDP). The index is calculated by averaging the values of the three aforementioned components to produce a final tabulation, or ranking, in the world. It thus proves helpful in assessing a country's development by measuring not only economic power, but also quality of life. The index has markedly improved appreciation of human and national progress from the narrow reckoning of the gross national product (GNP), which was used as the basis for evaluation for some time.

Still the HDI is but a component of the UN's Millennium Development Goals, which include waging war against extreme poverty and hunger, universal primary education, gender equality and empowering women, combating HIV/AIDS, promoting sustainable environmental and global partnership for development.

The specifics of these goals are central to the Macapagal administration. The UN aspires to reduce by half the number of poor people, defined as those with incomes of less than $1 a day (compared to a $3 subsidy for every cow in Europe), increase the number of the world's population with access to safe drinking water, and improve the lives of more than 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.

Although the Philippines is not one of the bottom dwellers on the HDI scale, its progress has hardly been encouraging or inspiring. In fact, it slipped to No. 85 from No. 77 in 2001 among the nations of the world.

The factors that have contributed to the general decline in the HDI have been cited and recognized. AIDS, terrorism, low price for exports and reduced foreign aid have proven to be formidable barriers to the progress of many poor countries. The UN report provides a yardstick for the proper measurement of how the UN Development Millennium Goals are being reached by rich and poor countries alike.

These global factors can certainly be cited to explain how a weak state aspiring to be a strong republic has slipped in the ranking among nations. But one wonders whether some adjustment and balancing have taken place in the national life as a consequence of our continued desire to improve the quality of life.

The Philippines' per capita income has certainly been boosted by the dollar remittances of overseas workers. A new phenomenon in the national level of literacy or knowledge factor is the rise of para-medical programs, more popularly known as "caregivers" courses. The perceived high demand for such skills in First World countries has led to the proliferation of such courses, making this kind of training a cottage industry of sorts. Statistics will show that schools offering such courses are competing with nursing schools as poorer Filipinos opt to undergo such training instead of taking the longer, more expensive nursing program. Corollarily, many medical graduates, uncertain about their prospects of practicing medicine abroad, are downgrading their status by taking up nursing. All for the sake of earning dollars and other foreign currencies. This phenomenon where professional knowledge is substituted for technical skills is bound to cancel out our overall progress. While this may be initially a personal, individual choice, in the aggregate character it will impact on the country's HDI and it will require strong policy intervention to reverse the trend to help us achieve the UN's millennium goals.

Much responsibility is still placed in the hands of the rich, developed countries whose combined foreign aid added up to just $50 to $55 billion annually. There is now a move to increase this to about $100 billion.

One silver lining in the report is the tremendous progress made by developing countries like China and India in moving out of poverty an enormous number of people in their societies. China's rapid economic development has resulted in an improvement in the lives of roughly 100 million poor Chinese out of a total population of 1.3 billion. India has also succeeded in raising the economic status of millions of its people through pioneering efforts in information technology. The experience of these two big countries shows that poverty alleviation can be achieved with the right mix of vision, policy and political will.

The Philippines would do well to harness diplomacy in its efforts to raise the quality of life by strengthen its ties with countries occupying the upper ranks in the HDI. For instance, Norway which has topped the list two years in a row, has a made an impact on Philippine national life since it established an embassy in Manila in the 1980s. It has served as a quiet and conscientious host and broker in the often stalled peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front. Hundreds of thousands of Filipino seamen are employed in Norwegian shipping companies plying world routes.

Norwegian diplomats in Manila, led by Ambassador Pal Moe and his deputy Trine Joranli, told my students, who did their practicum in the embassy earlier this year that Norway has been waiting for the Philippines to set up an embassy in Oslo. Ambassador Erlinda Basilio, whom I met in 2001 in Stockholm where she was then based, talked about how much hard work is required under the present arrangement of concurrent representation in Nordic countries and the Baltic states. Blame it on lack of funds. Norway is now ahead of Sweden development-wise and it should at least be on par with the latter in terms of diplomatic importance. In other words, we need to set up an embassy in Oslo.

The Millennium goals don't reflect a country's level of political progress. If it did, imagine the kind of data it would show.

Natalia M.L.M. Morales is a professor at the Department of Political Science in the University of the Philippines in Diliman and a vice president of the Philippine Council for Foreign Relations. Feedback at nataliam91@hotmail.com

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Shedding light on a controversy

THANK you very much for your editorial, entitled "Mea culpa," last July 10. It has been one of the clearest presentations of this issue besetting the Catholic Church that has been, unfortunately, quite rare to come by amid the highly sensationalized atmosphere attending it.

Indeed, one of our more difficult tasks has been to proceed with steady caution and sober intelligence in responding to this issue of sex scandals involving the clergy, and still credibly satisfy the demands of a confused faithful, and, worse, an agitated press. Your editorial has shown a deep understanding of Church processes involved in situations such as this and thus, truly served your readers especially those who need and seek to separate truth from mere speculation.

The continuing renewal of priests and the proper formation of men for the priesthood are an ongoing concern for the Church in general and our commission in particular. We know that we labor under changing climes and times in our modern world, and thus we are constantly challenged to balance our responses to this ever-changing world with the basic tenets and elements of our faith. We do our best to come up with the best program, the most well-meaning and fair guidelines, to try to ensure a clergy worthy and capable of their anointed ministry. Still, above all this, we rely on and trust in the mercy of God, the guidance of the Holy Spirit and love of Jesus Christ.

We sincerely hope that as your editorial says, we, the Church, would come out (of this recent experience) "stronger in the crucible of purification."

Once again, thank you for your intelligent contribution to this raging controversy. We always hope for clear-headed analyses of controversial matters involving the Church. We are always overjoyed and grateful to actually read one.

—MSGR. CHITO BERNARDO,
executive secretary,
Episcopal Commission on the Clergy, Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines,
470 General Luna St.,
Intramuros, Manila

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Baseless calumnies against Catholic Church

PLEASE permit me, for the sake of accuracy, to comment on some points raised in Dean Jorge Bocobo's column last June 23.

Bocobo repeated historically baseless calumnies against the Catholic Church in his article: "GMA exiles education and science to Dapitan." He asserted that the Catholic Church, particularly the friars, ruled like the Taliban of Afghanistan, conspiring to keep Filipinos ignorant. That claim is not supported by facts.

It cannot be denied that the Spanish missionaries introduced Western education and Christianity to the Filipinos. They were the successors of a long line of "fools for Christ," starting with the 12 apostles themselves, willingly facing all dangers and hardships, to spread the Faith.

Those missionaries established schools (from mission and parochial schools to universities like the University of Santo Tomas and the Ateneo). These institutions produced numerous graduates like Rizal and his fellow ilustrados. (Those same men, because of later philosophical and religious differences, attempted to discredit their intellectual benefactors in their works.) They were the generation of Filipinos who led the Revolution against Spain and the First Philippine (Malolos) Republic, Asia's first. Did they receive mediocre education from the Church as Bocobo wants us to believe?

In what way is the Church's influence over our nation Taliban-like? Where are the universities, hospitals, works of charity and education of the Talibans?

Bocobo's slanders of the Church ignore her educating and civilizing work. Her wise and maternal influence eliminated slavery in the whole of Europe without resort to revolution, beginning during the decline of the Roman Empire and later during the barbarian invasions. She was likewise responsible for the works of classical learning.

Bocobo also referred to Rizal's letters to Fr. Pablo Pastells, apparently as proof of his antagonism toward the Catholic Church and non-retraction of his religious convictions. I do not intend to add more fuel to the fire of the retraction controversy (which could only be solved with certainty if Rizal could be interviewed right now).

Even if Rizal wrote such anti-Catholic letters, was a deathbed conversion back to Catholicism not possible, with the grace of God moving Rizal to return to the Catholic faith of his childhood?

Bocobo also attributed to Catholic Church and Opus Dei "meddling" (without presenting documentary evidence) the reduction of the Science and Mathematics components in the new Basic Education Curriculum, allegedly with the connivance of the Macapagal administration.

He is clearly going too far in his anti-Catholic diatribes. He might as well blame the country's drug problem on the Church.

—RESTITUTO R. RAMOS,
press representative,
Asia Needs Fatima Foundation Inc., Costa Nina,
Trapiche, Oton, Iloilo

Lies and malice in 'Cocktales'

IT is so unjust to destroy reputations through the columns of your newspaper.

Cocktales last July 21 was full of lies. That piece was motivated by ill will and malice. Victor Agustin is a discredit to the INQUIRER.

The story about Sonia M. Roco asking some bureaucrat to tie the laces on her shoes is a total fabrication. She does not even have shoes with laces.

Our law office has not handled any case of Banco Filipino against the Bangko Sentral worth P17 billion or otherwise. This has been repeatedly brought to the attention of Agustin who persists in lying.

Neither is there any truth that former Sen. Raul Roco retained 10 lawyers from our law office when he was at the Department of Education. As Agustin knows, the 15 consultants included the chief of staff who was appointed by the President, the assistant secretary for legal affairs who was also appointed by the President, two lawyers from our law firm whose appointments were confidential in nature, three other lawyers, and staff members who were brought from his Senate office and whose expertise in office systems enabled the Office of the Secretary to retrieve records within two minutes. When Roco first assumed office, the retrieval of records took two weeks.

We do not know if the lies are promoted by Agustin's personal interest in the Ilusorio estate or part of a black propaganda against Roco. We hope Agustin is not being used by Ronnie Puno.

—BARBARA ANNE C. MIGALLOS,
managing partner,
Roco Kapunan Migallos Perez & Luna Law Offices,
16/F Strata 2000 Building,
Emerald Avenue, Pasig City

Making the PNP's wanted list

THIS pertains to the news report last July 9, entitled "Ex-stude tagged Bicol's most wanted criminal."

We wish to correct the writer's assertion that the Bicol Philippine National Police had declared murder suspect Jessie Ray Otañez as Bicol's most wanted criminal.

Before a suspect or convicted criminal at large is profiled in the PNP's most wanted list, deliberations are first conducted at the PNP National Headquarters. Only then is information on the subject released to create public awareness and the corresponding monetary reward announced.

The Bicol police is now armed with warrants of arrest issued by the regional trial court against the suspects in the gruesome murder of Ma. Isabel Juarez on March 3, 2003 as well as in the double murder of Australian Augustus Kuhle and his Filipino wife Corazon on Sept. 14, 2002. All measures are now being done by police operatives to arrest the suspect.

—BENJAMIN SOMERA SURATOS,
police superintendent,
Public Information Office,
PNP Regional Office 5,
Camp General Simeon A. Ola,
Legazpi City

KC2700
CARRYALL
PANORAMIC

Paandar ng Matibay!
KIA KC2700
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Paandar+Papremyo
Para sa Inyo!

KC2700 Panoramic
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Now! The true All-purpose Utility & Versatility vehicle is easier to own - at may chance ka pang manalo ng mga papremyo!

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	TERM					
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	TERM					
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255,000	21,250	14,631	11,463	8,200	6,617	5,835

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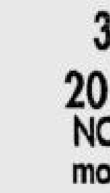

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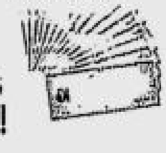

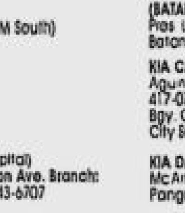

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50 Winners of KIA Gift Packs worth P1,000 each!

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1. This raffle promo is open to all buyers of the KIA KC2700 (all variants) nationwide as follows:
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  b. Cash buyers who made their full payment until the end of the promo period will be issued a raffle coupon.
2. Financing buyers may avail of the 20% to 50% downpayment from 12 to 60 months term; and 50% downpayment with 0% interest for 12 mos. term.
3. All financing applications are subject to bank approval.
4. The buyer should fill up all the entries on the raffle coupon and drop it at the dropbox located at the KIA dealership where he bought his KC2700 vehicle. Raffle coupons that were not completely filled up will be disqualified from the raffle.
5. Deadline of submission of entries is until the end of business hours of September 25, 2003.
6. The raffle draw will be held at KIA Motors, Phils., Km. 16 West Service Rd., Bicutan, Paranaque City on September 30, 2003.
7. The raffle prizes are as follows:
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  Second Prize - 2 Boracay Family Trips - 3 days/2nights accomodation for a family of 4, inclusive of airfares and baon of P10,000.00 (validity is 6 months from date of issue)
  Third Prize - 20 units of Nokia 3530 cellfone kit (simpack with P100.00 load)
  Fourth Prize - 15 SM gift certificates worth P5,000.00 each (with 1 year validity)
  Consolation Prize - KIA premium items worth P1,000.00 each
8. Appropriate taxes will be borne by the grand and second prize winners. Registration requirements, insurance and other related documents shall be for the account of the grand prize winner. Second Prize is not transferrable but may be converted to cash.
9. All winners will be notified by registered mail and must present the original invoice of the vehicle purchased, one(1) valid ID and their winning coupon when claiming their prizes.
10. A customer can only win once; if a name is drawn more than once he/she gets the prize of higher value.
11. The name on the raffle coupon will be declared the winner.
12. Where to claim the prizes:
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  b. Provincial winners will be assisted by the KIA dealership where they purchased their KIA KC2700. Communicon will send the 3rd prizes up to the consolation prizes directly to the winner. Winners of the grand and second prizes will have to claim their prizes at Communicon, Inc.
13. Winners may claim their prizes up to 60 days from the date of notification. Unclaimed prizes will be forfeited in favor of KMP with the concurence of DTI.
14. All employees of KIA Motors, Phils. and its affiliate companies, suppliers, ad agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified in this promo.
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16. The promo period is from June 19, 2003 up to September 19, 2003.

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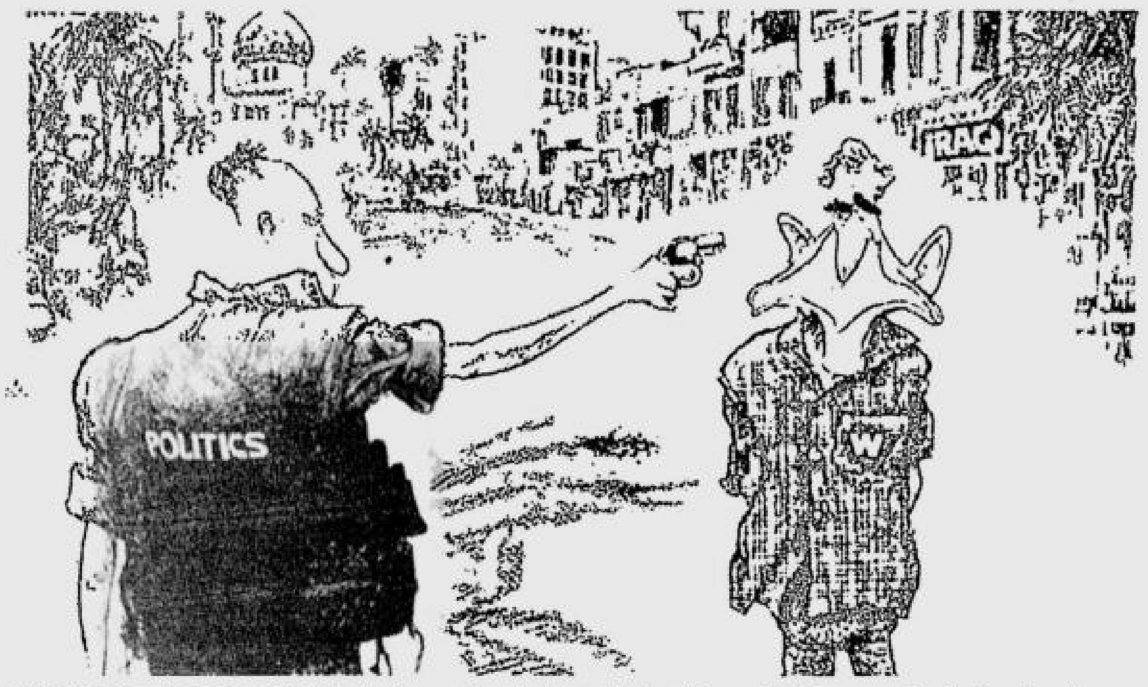
The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**



MAYBE NOT SO PRO-BUSH–The Secret Service is studying this pro-Bush cartoon in the Los Angeles Times, showing the president with a gun to his head, as a possible threat, US officials said July 21. Cartoonist Michael Ramirez said the drawing, which ran in Sunday's paper, was only meant to call attention to the unjust "political assassination" of Bush over his Iraq policy. REUTERS

US officials step up damage control on Iraq intel fiasco

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush's administration is stepping up its efforts to reframe the debate over the Iraq war, sharing intelligence documents with the Republican lawmakers and urging Republicans to emphasize positive aspects of the war.

The Bush administration is eager to move the national debate away from the flap over Bush's use of since-discredited intelligence on Iraq and Africa in his January speech to a joint session of Congress.

Bush's job approval ratings are slipping in the latest polls and Democrats are increasing their criticism of his Iraq policy.

White House Communications Director Dan Bartlett met on Monday with top Republican House and Senate staff members to essentially provide "talking points" for countering Democratic attacks, officials said.

The administration wants to try to shift the focus to the broader war on terrorism, and to some of the positive aspects of overturning Saddam Hussein's regime, including humanitarian gestures and the freeing of the Iraqi people.

Other aggressive efforts are expected by the Bush administration to try to regain control of the message, including a possible speech on the issue by Vice President Dick Cheney in the coming days, administration and congressional aides said.

Cheney's own role in the lead-up to the war has been challenged by administration critics.

At the heart of the latest debate are 16 words in Bush's Jan. 28 State of the Union speech to Congress, in which he cited a British report suggesting that Saddam Hussein was actively seeking to buy uranium from Africa.

The claim—based on an allegation that Iraq was seeking uranium ore in the west African nation of Niger—has subsequently been challenged by US intelligence officials.

Top-level presidential aides, including Bush national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, have said the words should not have been in the speech.

Bush himself has said the phrase had been cleared by intelligence agencies. Bush has sidestepped questions on whether he felt personally responsible for the tainted information, although CIA Director George Tenet has apologized for not raising objections to it ahead of the speech.

Administration officials last week began an offensive to try to stem the criticism, including putting out newly declassified portions of an October 2002 report to the president by the US intelligence community that reflected widespread concern that Iraq was in fact in pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Still, release of the material raised additional questions and reflected deep divisions within US intelligence agencies.

A top administration official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said Monday that Bartlett's trip to meet with congressional staffers was an attempt to touch base with allies on the subject and go over what the administration views as "misinformation." *AP*

Chinese students ask Blair tough questions

BEIJING—British Prime Minister Tony Blair found little respite Tuesday from his mounting problems, facing a tough grilling from Chinese students before heading into the political crisis engulfing Hong Kong.

As he pushed on with his loop through Asia amid plummeting popularity at home, Blair was tackled on war in Iraq and scientist David Kelly's apparent suicide by students at Beijing's prestigious Tsinghua University.

He appeared to be caught off guard when a female student asked him how he felt when he learned that Kelly had died and how he thought he would get through the crisis and regain the British public's trust.

"This is a desperately sad time for the family of Dr. Kelly and his funeral's not been held yet, and I don't want to say more about this situation except to say there will be a proper independent inquiry into what happened," said Blair.

Kelly's suicide last week has overshadowed Blair's diplomatic marathon that has already taken him through Washington, Tokyo and Seoul.

He promised Monday to "cooperate fully" with a judicial investigation into the death of the former UN arms inspector at the center of allegations that Downing Street exaggerated the threat of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

Another student at the university's Economics and Management Faculty wanted to know how he could justify the war in Iraq and whether he regretted making the decision to order in troops.

"No, I don't regret it," he said.

"No matter how difficult it was it was the right thing to do. I took that decision because I thought it was right for my country and the world and I still think it is so I have to stand by my decisions."

Blair has been given statesmanlike treatment by China's top leaders and the questions from about 90 students of law, journalism, science, economics and engineering were unexpectedly tough.

But the British premier took it in his stride, saying it was important that the world's leaders were questioned on their actions.

Blair heads to Shanghai later Tuesday where he will stroll along the Bund and hold meetings with business leaders before heading to former British colony Hong Kong for meetings with embattled Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa.

In his meetings with Chinese leaders Monday, Blair made it clear that a decision to re-examine Hong Kong's controversial anti-sedition law was "sensible."

"And I think that the fact that that has been supported by the Chinese authorities here indicates that they are sensitive to the need to maintain the 'one country, two systems' principle," he told reporters.

"You know also that there are proposals to move toward great democracy in Hong Kong. Obviously we support that.

"And I hope very much, and I will know this better once I have direct talks in Hong Kong, but I hope very much that we can get that process of change back on track." *AFP*

Mortar bombs rain down on Liberia capital; 60 killed

MONROVIA—Mortar bombs rained down on Liberia's capital Monrovia on Monday, killing at least 60 people as fighting between government forces and rebels raged in the city and US Marines flew in to help defend the US Embassy.

US President George W. Bush, who has expressed a willingness to send in US peacekeepers in support of a UN force, said he was working with West African leaders to decide when peacekeepers would be able to move into war-racked Liberia.

"We're working with the United Nations to effect policy necessary to get the ceasefire back in place," Bush said as UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and the European Union urged quick international action to end 14 years of almost non-stop war.

Dozens of mortar bombs smashed into Monrovia's diplomatic quarter as rebels fighting to topple Liberian President Charles Taylor thrust deep into the capital on Monday for the third time in two months. At least one mortar bomb hit the US Embassy.

An angry crowd laid 18 bodies, one of them headless, in front of the embassy and hurled abuse at the mission for not intervening to stop the fighting in a country founded by freed American slaves in the 19th century.

"If they do not value our lives and come and help us, then they should just leave," said Josiah Dogbah.

A first batch of Marines flew in by helicopter to reinforce security at the embassy and evacuate foreigners.

The Marines leapt out with their guns as the helicopter crews swivelled machineguns and kept the engines running.

Aid workers and witnesses said at least 60 people had been killed by explosions in the sprawling city. Scores of wounded headed to the main hospital.

A Pentagon spokesperson said 4,500 US troops on three warships were being moved into the Mediterranean to place them in a better position for possible use in Liberia, but they had no orders yet to go to the West African state.

The spokesperson said it would take about seven to 10 days to sail from the Mediterranean to Liberia.

Bush, who met Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi at his Texas ranch on Monday, insists Taylor must leave Liberia.

Taylor, wanted by a UN-backed war crimes court in Sierra Leone, has promised to go only when foreign peacekeepers arrive in the coastal capital.

Two rebel factions hold about two-thirds of Liberia and are bent on ousting Taylor, a former warlord. The rebel groups have their roots in tribal hatreds inflamed by a civil war in the 1990s that killed at least 200,000 people.

Annan called on the United States and the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) regional bloc to make swift preparations to deploy peacekeepers.

"Liberia today is poised between hope and disaster," Annan told reporters at UN headquarters in New York. *Reuters*

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New death piles pressure on US to scale down its role in Iraq

BAGHDAD—A US soldier and an Iraqi interpreter were killed in an attack in Baghdad on Monday, adding to an almost daily toll of casualties that is putting pressure on Washington to scale back its role in Iraq.

They died as Iraq's week-old self-rule body again failed to resolve the basic issue of who will lead the US-appointed Governing Council. With many Iraqis also keen to be rid of the occupying forces and rule themselves now that Saddam Hussein is gone, the Council seems to many to be making slow progress.

An Arab television channel aired comments by masked gunmen who claimed attacks on Americans were an Islamic holy war and not, as US officials say, the work of Saddam loyalists.

The US military said the soldier from the 1st Armored Division and the interpreter were killed when their vehicle hit an improvised mine on a Baghdad highway and they then came under fire. Three other soldiers were wounded.

A local journalist watched as one US military vehicle blew up in broad daylight. A Reuters photographer later saw two burnt out Humvee vehicles, 100 meters apart, apparently the aftermath of the fatal incident, north of the city center.

Five US soldiers, as well as the interpreter and an Iraqi driver for the United Nations, have been killed since Friday, meaning 38 Americans have died at enemy hands since May 1, when President George W. Bush declared an end to major combat.

A US military spokesperson said an armored patrol in the restive town of Ramadi, west of Baghdad, was also hit by two improvised bombs and that two soldiers were wounded.

Bush's man in Iraq, Paul Bremer, said in Washington on Sunday that the attacks were the work of "professional killers" loyal to Saddam and that US forces would arm Iraqis to help fight them. Recruiting for a new Iraqi army began at the weekend. Bremer said Saddam was probably still hiding in Iraq.

But a man with his face swathed in an Arab head-dress told Abu Dhabi television Saddam was not responsible.

"They are all waged in the name of God, none of them have any relation to the former regime... All Iraqis have been harmed by the former regime," he said, standing in a group of about 10 masked men, some carrying rifles.

"America and its allies say they have tanks, they have warplanes, they have technology. We have something stronger than all of this. We have God supporting us."

In recent weeks, many groups—some saying they are Saddam loyalists and one claiming links to the militant al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden—have claimed attacks on troops. *Reuters*

PVT. Jessica Lynch receiving the Purple Heart from Lt. Gen. James B. Peake, US Army surgeon general, during a ceremony at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, in Washington, July 21. Lynch also received the Bronze Star and the Prisoner of War Medal. REUTERS

Hero or product of media hype? Lynch due home

PALESTINE, West Va.—Jessica Lynch, the wounded Army private whose ordeal in Iraq was hyped into a media fiction of US heroism, was set for an emotional homecoming on Tuesday in a rural West Virginia community bristling with flags, yellow ribbons and TV news trucks.

But when the 20-year-old supply clerk arrives by Blackhawk helicopter to the embrace of family and friends, media critics say the TV cameras will not show the return of an injured soldier so much as a reality-TV drama co-produced by US government propaganda and credulous reporters.

"It no longer matters in America whether something is true or false. The population has been conditioned to accept anything: sentimental stories, lies, atomic bomb threats," said John MacArthur, the publisher of Harper's magazine.

Lynch was in a 507th Maintenance Company convoy on March 23 when her company was ambushed near the city of Nassiriya. Eleven soldiers died and nine were wounded in a 90-minute fire fight.

Lynch became a national hero after media reports quoted unnamed US officials as saying she fought fiercely before being captured, firing on Iraqi forces despite sustaining multiple gunshot and stab wounds.

In the end, Army investigators concluded that Lynch was injured when her Humvee crashed into another vehicle in the convoy after it was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade.

Far from a scene of battlefield heroism, the Army said the convoy blundered into the ambush after getting lost and many of the unit's weapons malfunctioned during the battle.

The US military also released video taken during an apparently daring rescue by American special forces who raided the Iraqi hospital where she was being treated.

Iraqi doctors at the hospital said later the US rescuers had faced no resistance and the operation had been over-dramatized.

Lynch herself has been quoted as saying she can remember nothing of the ambush or the rescue.

"The failure here was that the news media got to thinking the government could be trusted to reflect reality," said Carolyn Marvin, professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communication. *Reuters*

16 killed in new Kashmir violence

JAMMU, India—At least 16 people were killed when Islamic militants carried out separate attacks on an Indian army base and a Hindu shrine in Indian-administered Kashmir, police and the army said Tuesday.

Analysts said they believed the fresh surge of violence was an attempt to scuttle recent peace moves between India and Pakistan, while Indian Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani told parliament in New Delhi it was aimed at disturbing the "normalcy" of the region.

"This is a serious thing," said Advani. "Despite the good signs of return of normalcy there is no scope for complacency."

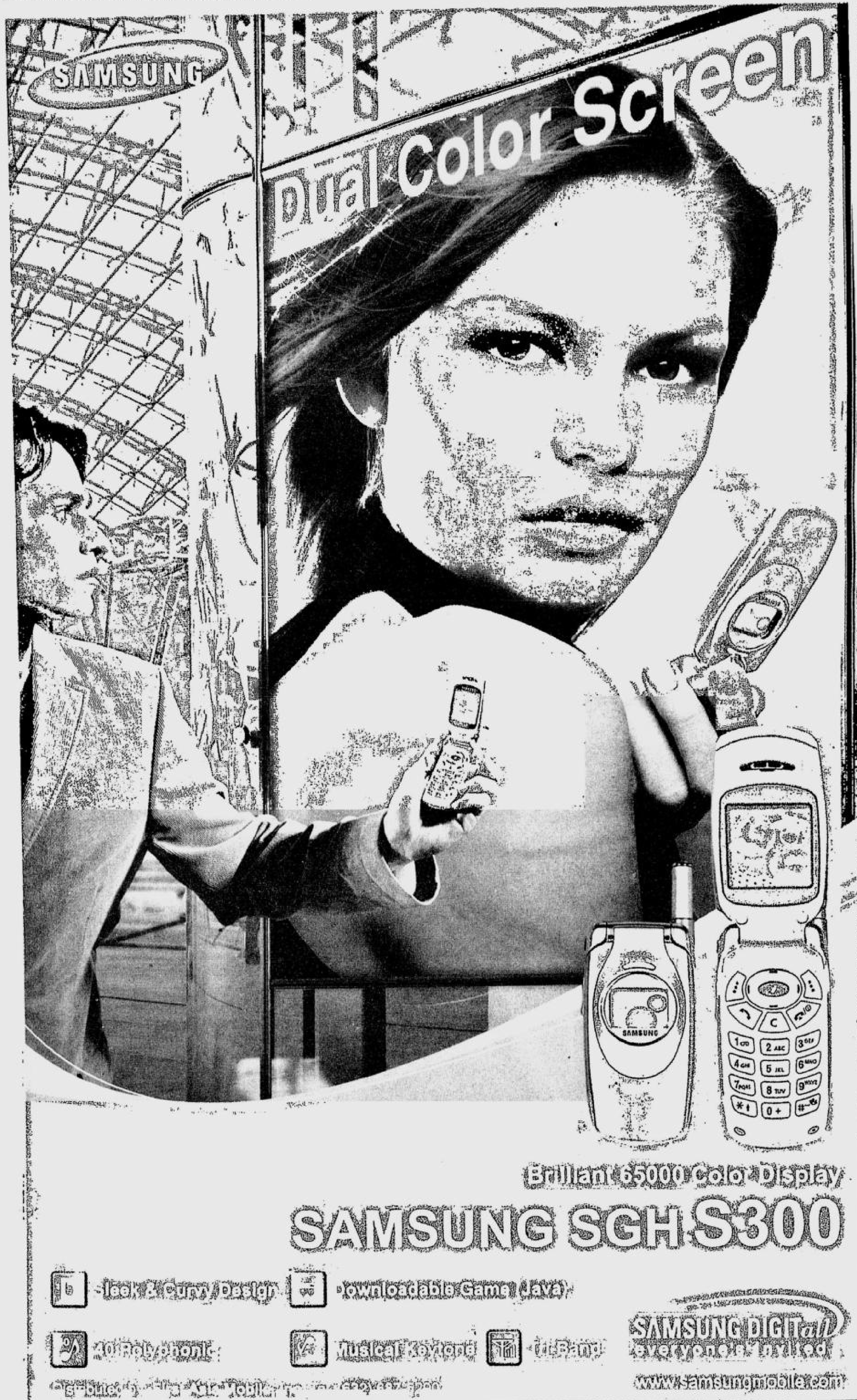
An army spokesperson said seven soldiers died and six were wounded when two militants at dawn Tuesday attacked Tanda military base, about 25 km west of this winter capital.

Two attackers were also killed in the firefight, which lasted almost three hours, army spokesperson Lt. Col. Bhawar Singh Rathore said.

The rebels entered deep inside the camp, headquarters of 610 army battalion, throwing grenades and opening fire indiscriminately, police told the Press Trust of India news agency.

The camp was sealed off while army commandos engaged the militants in a gunbattle.

Tuesday's bloody raid came just hours after an attack Monday night on crowds gathered to receive free food near the town of Katra on their way to the shrine of Vaishnodevi in southern Indian-administered Kashmir, visited by thousands of Hindus each year. *AFP*



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N. Korea predicted to have 8 A-bombs by year's end

WASHINGTON—North Korea may have as many as eight nuclear weapons by the end of the year, if its nuclear program goes unchecked, a former US defense secretary predicted late Monday.

"If North Korea continues on its present course, by the end of the year, I think we'll have about eight nuclear weapons, and next year will be in serial production of about five to 10 nuclear weapon as year," said William Perry, who also served as special envoy to North Korea during the administration of former president Bill Clinton.

Perry, who caused a stir here last week by warning that Washington and Pyongyang could be at war as early as this year, said the hermit nation might soon have enough nuclear weapons to target Japan and South Korea while offering leftover plutonium for sale to the highest bidder.

"I consider that this poses an unacceptable risk to our security," the former defense secretary argued in an interview with PBS television's "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" program.

"There are plenty of bidders out there willing to bid for it," he continued. "And if any of the terror groups are willing to get nuclear weapons or are able to get that plutonium, then we could see it end up in an American city."

Perry also took an implicit swipe at President George W. Bush's national missile defense program that calls for deploying missile interceptors around the world to shoot down hostile missiles fired at the United States and its allies by rogue nations like North Korea and Iran.

He said he did not see a danger coming from North Korean missiles fired at the United States but rather from possible North Korean sales of fissile materials.

Concerns about North Korea have heightened by a New York Times report on Sunday that sensors set up on the country's borders had begun detecting elevated levels of krypton 85, a gas emitted as spent fuel is converted into plutonium.

The daily said computer analyses tracking the gases as they are blown across the Korean peninsula appeared to rule out the Yongbyon reprocessing plant as their origin, suggesting the presence of a second, secret reprocessing facility.

But the State Department Monday dismissed the Times report as unverifiable.

Bush, who has been calling for intercepting suspected shipments from rogue states, on Monday warned North Korean leader Kim Jong-il that developing nuclear weapons would "alienate" him from the world.

But Perry said he did not believe the interception program could be effective. *AFP*

Taliban stepping up attacks, US Army says

BAGRAM/SPIN BOLDAK, Afghanistan—The US Army said on Monday that Taliban guerrillas had stepped up attacks in southern Afghanistan, with nine coalition soldiers wounded and up to 24 Taliban killed in the last four days.

Afghan officials said the militants were crossing from Pakistan, an open supporter of the Taliban until Islamabad announced it was joining the US-led "war on terror" in 2001.

US military spokesperson Col. Rodney Davis said between 22 and 24 Taliban fighters had been killed in a major operation near the town of Spin Boldak on Saturday, and five suspects taken into custody .the following day after an arms cache was discovered.

Afghan officials said hundreds of Afghan soldiers had launched a follow-up operation near the Pakistan border and detained dozens more suspects.

"Yes, the attacks have increased nowadays," Davis told reporters at the US military headquarters at Bagram air base, in response to a question. "This engagement in Spin Boldak was the biggest in two months," he said.

Stepped up attacks in Afghanistan from suspected Taliban militants come at a time when the 146,000 US troops in Iraq are under almost daily assault, but Davis said he saw no connection.

"Iraq and Afghanistan are different countries. It is not the effect of that," he said.

The fighting began after Taliban militants attacked a coalition convoy on Saturday as well as an Afghan government post. US-led forces pursued the suspects into the surrounding hills and called in air support from Apache helicopters.

But the Taliban gave a very different account of the engagement, saying they had killed 20 Afghan government soldiers and suffered only two dead and two wounded of their own.

Senior Taliban intelligence official Mullah Abdul Samad said he had taken part in the fighting and challenged the Americans to substantiate their version of events.

"If this is correct, then we challenge them to show the bodies of these Taliban fighters," he said, speaking by satellite telephone from an undisclosed location.

Davis said Special Operations Forces and Afghan militia patrolled the scene of the fighting on Sunday "finding indicators of wounded enemy, including clothing, shoes, discarded equipment, expended ammunition and RPG (rocket-propelled grenade) casings."

Afghan officials blamed Pakistan for the incursions and shellfire has been traded on parts of the border. *Reuters*

BOAT TODAY, BRIDGE TOMORROW

A Cambodian boy rows across a river in southeast Cambodia, near the Thai border, July 21. Thailand and Cambodia have started to build the first of four bridges over a network of rivers in the jungle-clad area to speed up the movement of people and trade between the two southeast Asian neighbors. REUTERS

Heat wave sparks forest fires in Europe

PARIS—Firefighters on Monday battled to contain scorching forest fires raging in many parts of Europe sparked by the exceptional heat, a crippling drought and suspected arsonists.

Flames rushing through tinder-dry woods and forests, sometimes with alarming speed and ferocity, threatened historic sites and beauty spots in a wide arc from Portugal to Croatia.

In the popular Mediterranean holiday island of Corsica, a massive fire continued to burn out of control just 20 km north of the capital Ajaccio having already destroyed over 2,000 hectares of virtually inaccessible forest.

On the mainland near the southern mountain town of Digne-les-Bains over 200 firefighters managed to bring a forest blaze under control, but not before it had blasted through 140 hectares of woodland.

Thick palls of smoke also hung over parts of Italy with the authorities responding to over 30 emergency calls with their specialized water-dropping aircraft.

Prayers for rain were again held in churches across the northern part of the country over the weekend as farmers faced ruin because of the drought which threatens their crops.

There was anguish across the Alps in Slovenia, too, with official estimates that the damage caused by the lack of rain there could amount to about 70 million euros ($80 million).

In Croatia, forest fires continued to burn near the historic coastal city of Dubrovnik, classified as a UN World Heritage Site. Officials said there had been no casualties and the country's Adriatic Sea resorts were not threatened. *AFP*

S'pore docs separate Korea twins

SINGAPORE—A pair of infant Korean sisters connected at the lower back were successfully separated Tuesday at Singapore's Raffles Hospital—just two weeks after the hospital's failed attempt to separate a pair of conjoined Iranian twins.

The 4-month-old Korean twins Sa Rang and Ji Hye were separated at 2:40 p.m. local time, said Dr. Prem Kumar, spokesperson for Raffles Hospital. The girls, whose names mean Love and Wisdom in Korean, also underwent plastic and reconstructive surgery Tuesday afternoon, he said.

Doctors said the operation was a success and that both twins were resting in stable condition in the intensive care unit.

Dr. Thong Pao Wen, a consultant in the operation, said the mood in the operating room two or three hours into the surgery was "euphoric" because the staff realized the girls were going to be fine.

The surgery had been expected to last six to eight hours, but in the end only lasted 4 1/2 hours. The twins were fused at the pelvis, the lower end of their spine, the lower end of their intestinal tract and some parts of their genitalia, doctors said. *AP*

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Mangyan couple, 2 kids killed in clash

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A Mangyan couple and their two children were slain after they were caught in a two-hour gun battle between government soldiers and communist rebels in Sitio Talayub, Barangay San Nicolas in Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro on Monday, police said yesterday.

Mimaropa police director Senior Supt. Alejandro Lapinid said soldiers under the Army's 16th Infantry Battalion (IB), headed by 1st Lt. Danilo Escandor, clashed with seven New People's Army (NPA) rebels around 6 a.m. Monday.

The soldiers were conducting operations, when they chanced upon suspected New People's Army rebels, he said.

Lapinid said that as the NPA rebels were retreating, they went toward the mountainous part of the area, near the victim's house.

Hanunuo

Killed were Roger Blanco, 25; his wife Oliva, 22; and children Roger Jr., 3, and one-year-old Kevin. Police said Oliva is three months pregnant. They were members of the Hanunuo tribe.

But the militant human rights group Karapatan-Southern Tagalog said there was no legitimate encounter in the area.

In a statement, the group claimed that the soldiers "callously opened fire at the hapless victims."

"Reports from our local chapter in Occidental Mindoro revealed that soldiers led by. Lt. Escandor riddled the victim's house with bullets without apparent reason. The soldiers have always been like this," said Irene Cuasay, spokesperson of Karapatan- Southern Tagalog.

She said reports reaching their office showed that Roger was getting ready to go to his farm and his ,wife was busy preparing his things, while the children were playing outside, when they suddenly heard gunshots.

Cuasay said only one member of the Blanco family survived, but with a gunshot wound in the hand.

Afraid

She said residents near the site, where the encounter allegedly happened, saw the incident but were "afraid to testify against soldiers because they might get back at them."

But Lapinid stressed that it was an encounter. He said the group's team leader, whom he identified only as Sgt. Gler, was wounded after the gun battle. He added the army sergeant, who suffered a bullet wound on his right foot, was brought to San Jose Hospital for treatment.

Cuasay said they were very saddened by the incident.

She also lashed out at the snail-paced investigation into the murder of rights leader Eden Marcellana and Eddie Gumanoy. *With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

LAPU-LAPU CITY Regional Trial Court Judge Leopoldo Cañete inspects his bullet-hole-riddled Nissan Frontier pick-up car yesterday, after he survived an ambush. JUNJIE MENDOZA

Judge survives attack

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A regional trial court judge was wounded yesterday morning when unidentified gunmen fired at his vehicle while he was bringing his two daughters to school in Barangay Lahug, this city.

Judge Leopoldo Cañete of RTC Branch 27 in Lapulapu City, Mactan Island Cebu, suffered a bullet wound in the right knee.

The police said his daughters Kathleen Ann, 17, and Paula Katrina, 15, were shaken but unscathed.

Cañete, 46, was driving his vehicle to bring his daughters to school about 6:50 a.m., when unidentified men fired at his vehicle on Justice Street, Peace Valley Subdivision.

Fortunately, a taxicab driven by Rodrigo Camay happened to pass by the area and blocked the bullets intended for the judge.

The presence of the taxi also distracted the attention of the gunmen, forcing them to flee on two motorcycles called big bikes, the police said.

Three bullets hit the door on the driver's side of the Nissan Frontier. Another bullet hit the vehicle's hood. Bullets also ripped through the taxi's windshield and the right door.

The police recovered four empty shells and one slug of .45 cal. pistol in the judge's car.

Although hurt, Cañete proceeded to the Cebu City Police Office (CCPO) on Gorordo Avenue to report the incident.

Senior Supt. Cecil Ezra Sandalo, Cebu City police director, said the judge parked his car at the CCPO compound, when he went to the Gullas Memorial Hospital in Barangay Banilad to seek treatment for his wound. He was escorted by policemen.

From the hospital, the judge went back to the office of Sandalo and reported to the police official that he had been receiving death threats through letters and telephone calls.

Sandalo said Cañete had requested security details from the Philippine National Police, but his application was still being processed.

But, he said, he had deployed two policemen to act as bodyguards of the judge, following the ambush.

The judge had reported to the police that a car with heavily tinted windows was following him on June 16. He also said a Mercedes-Benz tried to hit him while he was jogging near his home at Nivel Hills, Barangay Apas.

Sandalo said the ambush could be connected to these death threats as well as his job as a judge.

Senior Insp. Doroteo Mantos, CCPO homicide section chief, said four men might have taken part in the ambush.

Based on witnesses' accounts, Mantos said at least two big bikes were parked near the crime scene, and each bike had two persons on board.

NPA charges rival group of abducting mountaineer

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The New People's Army (NPA) has accused the breakaway Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) of abducting a 22-year-old mountaineer, who disappeared in the mountains of Antique province six months ago.

In an e-mailed statement dated July 15, the Coronacion "Waling-Waling" Chiva Command, the NPA's regional command on Panay Island, said the breakaway group led by Daniel Batoy planned the kidnapping of Leo Victor Gutierrez last February.

The statement, signed by the command's spokesperson, Julian Paisano, said the RPA-ABB "connived" with Josue Alejo, a barangay council member of Flores, Culasi town, Antique, in abducting the mountaineer with the plan "to make money out of Leovic's kidnapping."

Alejo acted as one of the guides of Leovic and 11 companions from Metro Manila in the trek to the Madia-as mountain ranges on Feb. 16 in Culasi, Antique, 92 km north of the capital town of San Jose.

In radio interviews, Batoy denied the NPA allegation, saying they were only trying to help Leovic's family.

The INQUIRER tried to reach RPA-ABB national commander Stephen Paduano, alias Carapali Lualhati, but his mobile phone was unattended or out of coverage area.

The RPA-ABB broke ties with the NPA in the early 1990s over ideological and political differences. It signed a peace pact with the government in December 2000.

Leovic, of Mandaluyong City, disappeared in the southern range of the mountain, 3,500 feet above sea level, on their descent.

The search operations were suspended on March 13, when he could not be found despite a massive search operation joined in by hundreds of policemen, volunteers and members of mountain climbing groups all over the country.

His continued disappearance has baffled his family and those involved in the search and rescue operations.

They doubted that Leovic, a physical fitness instructor with two years experience as a mountaineer, would get lost in the Madia-as mountain ranges, a popular destination for climbers.

Paisano said part of the plan of the RPA-ABB was "to pretend to help search for Leovic after they kidnapped him."

He claimed that the RPA-ABB abducted Alejo last month to "control him" because the group "feared that their plan would be exposed."

Paisano said Leovic's family had planned to go to the place, where the victim was allegedly buried last month, after Alejo along with RPA-ABB leaders met with Leovic's parents. Alejo initially claimed that he knew where the mountaineer was buried.

But the exhumation was called off after Alejo allegedly reversed his story, claiming he was abducted and tortured by the RPA-ABB.

Batangas folk complain of foul odor from refinery

SAN PASCUAL, Batangas—Residents of three barangays in this town started a signature campaign, urging the local government to investigate the foul odor that often spreads through Barangays Poblacion, San Antonio and New Danglayan.

The odor from the Caltex oil refinery has increased the incidence of asthma cases in these villages, residents allege.

Marie (not her real name), a resident of Poblacion, said she had no asthma when she transferred to this barangay six years ago.

"But now, I have asthma, along with my husband and three children," she said.

"Even our family doctor said she expected that to happen because of our proximity to the refinery."

Another resident, who identified himself as Domeng, a pensioner, said he tried to do a little farming in his lot in the Poblacion, but just when his plants started to flower, the odor from the refinery spread again.

"The flowers just dried up, like they were burned right there on the stems, and the leaves got dried, too. Now, my land is idle," Domeng said.

He said he was born and raised in the Poblacion, and that, since Caltex came, their village became polluted.

"The worst thing is that we never knew what we've been smelling for so many decades now and why," he said.

The Caltex refinery, the first refinery in the Philippines, has been in the Poblacion since 1954.

Other villages

But it is not only the Poblacion that is affected by the odor.

Tino, a resident of New Danglayan, said he and his family are also suffering from the respiratory disease that they suspect has been caused by Caltex's fumes.

Nennet, a resident in San Antonio, used to take care of chickens, but they fell dead one by one at the height of the foul odor which, she suspects, came from the refinery.

"We have long asked our barangay captain to investigate the foul odor and where it came from but, until now, we have no answer," Nennet said.

The signature campaign, which was addressed to the town officials, concerned government agencies and the church, nongovernment groups, and the media, did not mention the barangay council.

Since June 16, the signature campaign has gathered at least 300 signatures.

Anti-pollution measures

Jorge Marco, communications officer of Caltex Philippines Inc., said the company has put up environment-friendly measures to assure the host community that they are living in a safe environment.

"We have been conducting air and water tests in various stations in Bauan town, the San Pascual Central School, the Poblacion area, Sta. Rita Kalsada and Sta. Rita Aplaya, and those tests have always been submitted to the DENR," Marco said.

Caltex welcomes inquiries and calls from residents, who have smelled the odors that they suspect could have come from the refinery, he said.

"We have been in constant coordination with the barangays and have even put up a hotline call center that the residents can call, in case they smell foul odors. The hotline is open 24 hours daily and will link the caller to the pollution control officer on duty, who will immediately conduct the investigation," Marco added.

He said the incidence of asthma should not be blamed solely on the refinery as "so many other factors could affect a person's way of life."

He added even the provincial health office records show that the incidence of asthma is lower in the town than in Nasugbu and Balayan.

Other sources

He also ruled out the residents' suspicion that the foul odor could have come from Caltex alone. He named the other possible sourcesces such as LMG Chemicals, or the Cocochem plant in Brgy. Aplaya, Bauan. But LMG Chemicals closed down two years ago, while the Cocochem plant is located far from the three barangays.

He said Caltex spent $5 million to minimize the sulfur content in the air (sic) that was emitted in crude oil processing. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

San Juanico traffic

TACLOBAN CITY—Traffic on San Juanico Bridge, which links the islands of Leyte and Samar, is being regulated due to a P25-million repair work on the Samar section of the 2.2-km span. During the repair period, to last until August, there will be a 30-minute interval for all vehicles before they are allowed to cross to the Samar side. This is being done because of the need to jack up the bridge deck (slab) of Pier 35, one of the three columns of the bridge damaged, after it was hit by a wayward barge on Sept. 22, 2002. ***Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Illegal logging case

ILAGAN, Isabela—An environment official filed illegal logging charges against three persons, including a policeman, in Dinapigue town. Domingo de la Cruz, forestry specialist of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Dinapigue, filed the case against SPO1 Bartolome Layco of Dilasag, Aurora, Alexander Principe and Abaristo Laguisma before the provincial prosecutor's office. The case stemmed from the seizure of at least 3,300 board feet of illegally sawn narra flitches on June 24 in the town. Five suspects arrested in that incident pointed to Layco as the owner of the truck, where the narra flitches were loaded. The shipment was reportedly owned by Laguisma. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Waste disposal code

ILAGAN, Isabela—The local government of Bontoc, Mt. Province, will soon implement an ecological solid waste management code to solve the waste disposal problem in the capital town. Bontoc Mayor Luis Claver said the town's problem is the lack of proper waste disposal system. Claver and Bontoc councilors visited Isabela recently to inspect the solid waste management facilities in Ilagan and Roxas. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

1 killed in ambush

BATANGAS CITY—The driver of a van, who accompanied the group of Bolbok barangay captain Thomas Dimacuha in a function, died after armed men shot at his van in Barangay Balite on Friday. Killed on the spot was Reynaldo Damian, 26 of Balite. Those injured were Dimacuha, Romeo Castillo, 47, of Banaba West, and Ireneo Roxas, 42, of Barangay Balagtas. Police said the group, which was riding in two vans, was ambushed by four armed men. Dimacuha sustained bullet wounds on his face and hands, while the two others were hit on different parts of their bodies. Police found 62 empty shells of cal. 5.56, 13 empty shells of AK47, seven .9mm empty shells and a deformed slug of cal. 45, making them conclude that there were other gunmen in the ambush site. ***Mel Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Pesticide use hit

TAYABAS, Quezon—The Gibanga Rice Planters Association in Barangay Gibanga has complained of an alleged slash-and-burn farming method practiced by some farmers from Barangay Mamala I, Sariaya. The group also alleged that the "kaingeros" used highly toxic pesticides in the vegetable plantation located on the slope of Mt. Banahaw, as shown by the presence of bottles of farm pesticides all over the plantation. The farmers have expressed alarm that the natural water sources near the area might be contaminated. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Fire razes market

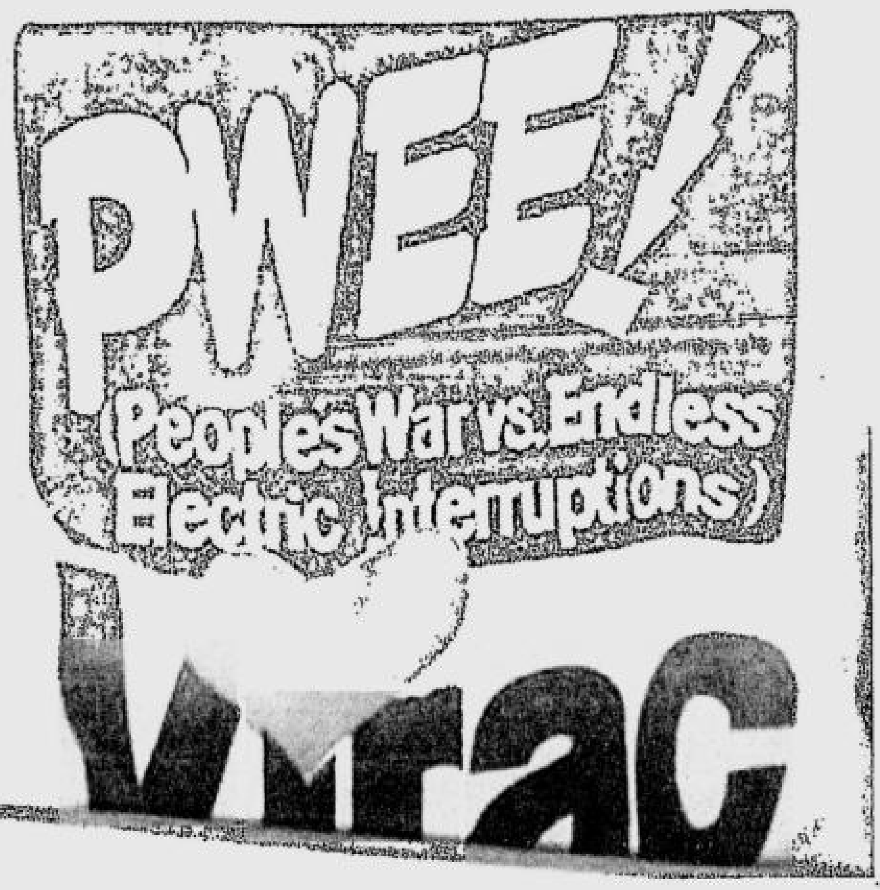
POLANGUI, Albay—A huge fire razed the public market, including some government and private establishments, Thursday. Sr. Insp. Moises Ramirez, Polangui police chief, said the fire started around 8:15 p.m. and was put out at midnight. About P11 million worth of properties were damaged and went up in smoke. ***Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Drug dealer nabbed

POLICE arrested the most wanted drug lord in Palawan, after they stormed the suspect's house in Barangay Masipag on Thursday. Mimaropa police director Senior Supt. Alejandro Lapinid identified the suspect as Mario Daquez, 55, a jeepney driver and number one on the police list of most wanted persons in the province. Palawan police director Senior Supt. Michael Gerraez said Daquez also topped their order of battle list against illegal drugs. Seized from Daquez were eight plastic sachets with 24.8 grams of suspected shabu, an unlicensed .38 cal. pistol, tools believed to be used in repacking the illegal substance and several drug paraphernalia. ***Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

1 dies in shootout

TANZA, Cavite—A man died and two others were seriously wounded, after the former exchanged fire with a barangay councilor during a heated argument in Barangay Julugan on Sunday. Police said Renato Arbolante, 41, armed with .45-cal. pistol, exchanged fire with councilor Florentino Abueg, 68, who was armed with a 9-mm pistol. Both of them sustained bullet wounds in their bodies. A bystander, Ernesto Arendila, 49, was hit on his right thigh by a stray bullet. The three were rushed to the Tanza Family General Hospital but Arbolante was declared dead on arrival. ***Fausto Tatad Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***



PWEE! COURTESY OF MON RAMIREZ/AGHAM
ThisT-shirt reflects the wearers disgust over the daily blackouts in Catanduanes despite the promise of President Macapagal to remedy the situation after a recent visit there. The PWEE! (People's war versus endless electric interruptions) T-shirt was worn during the region-wide Power Caucus sponsored by the Bikol Power (People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates) and the Albay Consumers Watch.

Problems of junior officers being addressed, says AFP

CEBU CITY—Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes has reiterated his appeal to politicians and officials not to "ride on the idealism of junior officers" of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, who had aired their grievances against the government.

"This (reported coup plot) has been blown out of proportion by some people because it's election time," Reyes told reporters on Sunday.

"If they want to air their grievances, there are proper channels to address (sic) than air them to these people. This agitation should not continue, and this goes to all who are trying to agitate our officers," he added.

Restive Army soldiers of Basilan and Sulu, a majority of whom belonging to Philippine Military Academy Class 1994 and 1995, seems to be gaining support from junior officers even outside of Mindanao.

In Cebu, some junior officers in the AFP Central Command shared the same complaints—low pay and corruption in the AFP. They, however, did not want to be identified.

Copies of former Senator Gregorio Honasan's National Recovery Program have been distributed to soldiers in Central Command.

Despite the coup rumors, Reyes assured that the country can "sleep soundly" because the government is attending to the concerns of the officers, which, he said, are legitimate.

Reyes said the government has already started standardizing the pay of the soldiers, and this will be fully implemented by 2004.

A salary increase of the soldiers has been implemented on a staggered basis—20 percent has been given last year, 30 percent this year and the remaining 50 percent will be given in 2004.

The government also has housing projects for the soldiers, he said.

In Zamboanga City, Reyes appealed to his critics not to fan the dissatisfaction of young officers with the military organization.

"We know the situation is not perfect, their concerns are legitimate and we are addressing these, but the Armed Forces of the Philippines should be spared from all these," Reyes told the INQUIRER here after speaking before members of the Zamboanga Press Club on Sunday night.

"I am asking these people (critics) not to try to gain political mileage nor political capital at the expense of the military, (which is) an institution," he added.

He said the grievances expressed by the young military officers, "although old and common to almost the entire sectors and agencies of government and private institutions, are being addressed." *Kathy I. Navarro, PDI Visayas Bureau and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE
IT IS exactly 436 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

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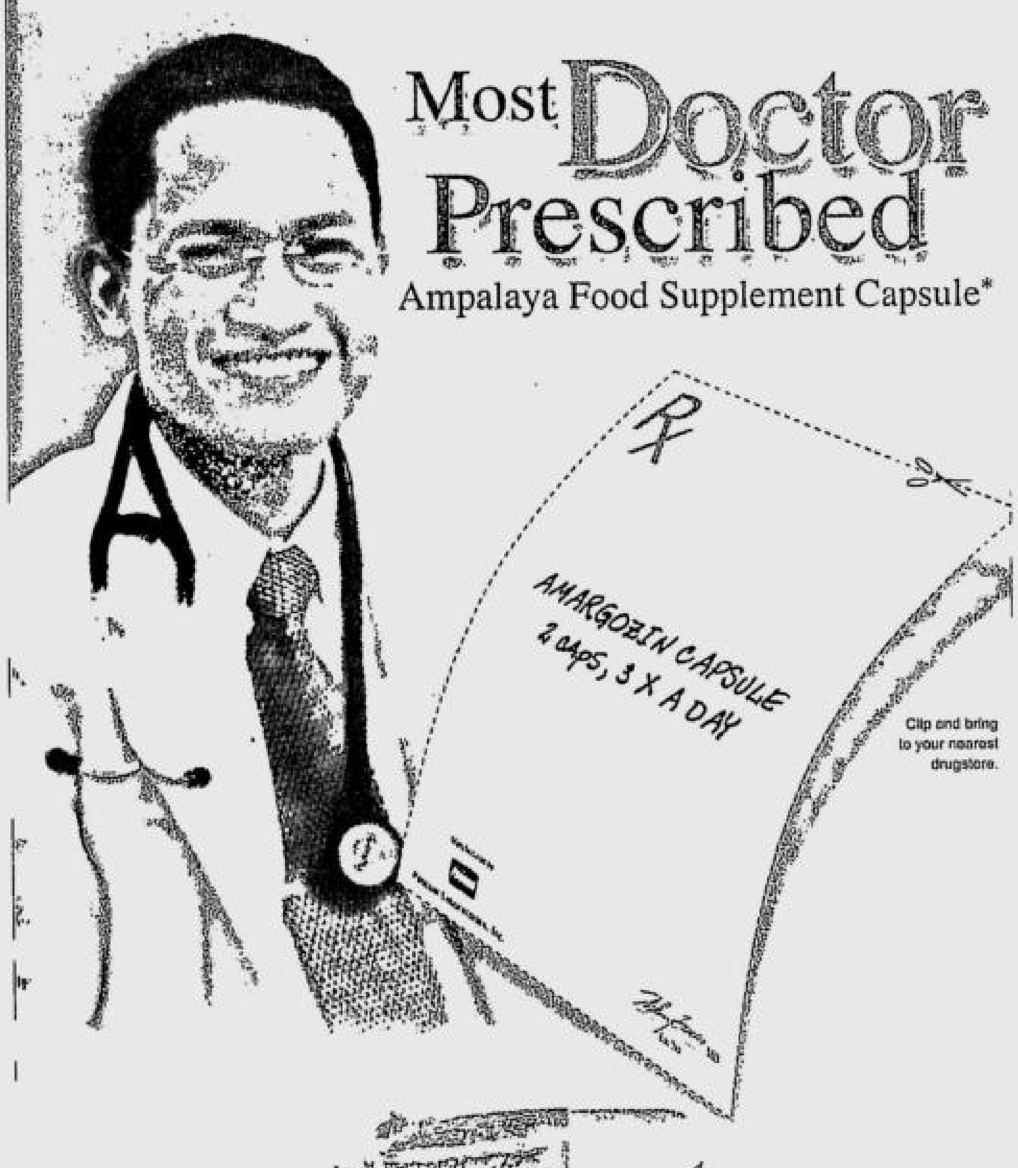
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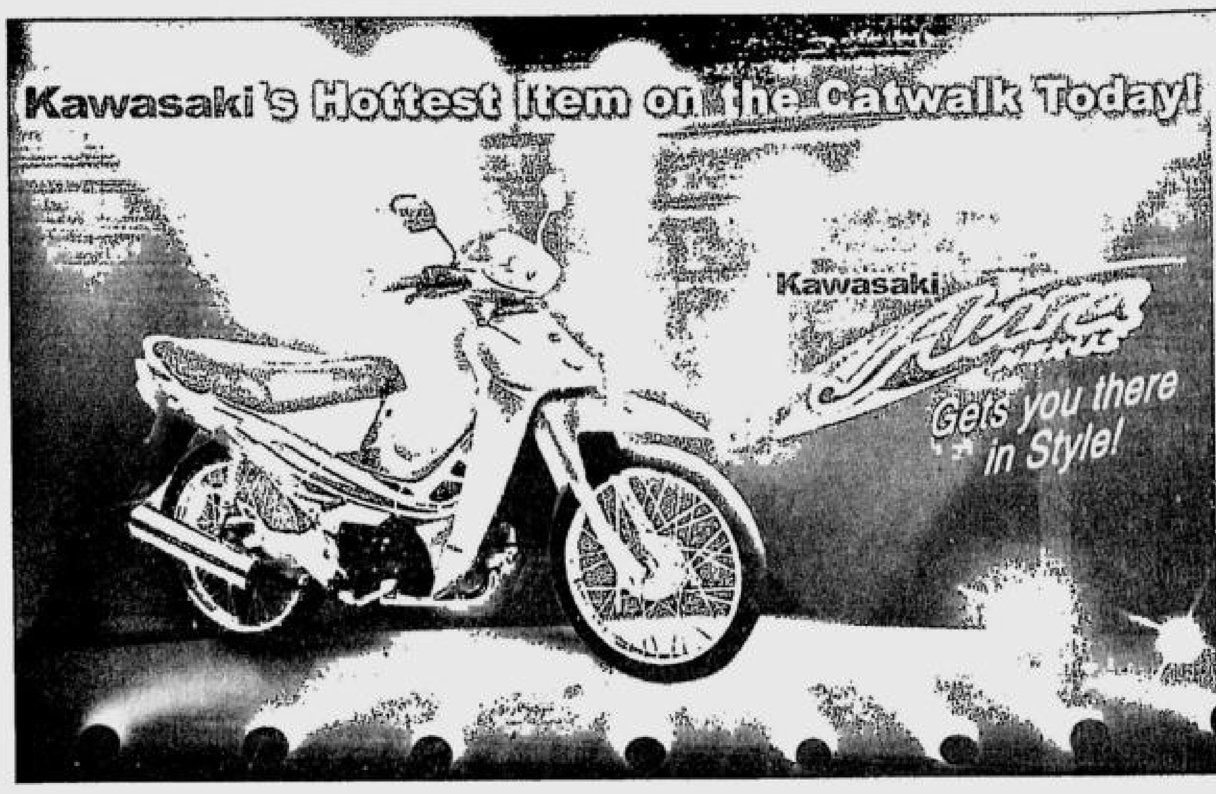

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
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Ibaloi legacy at Camp John Hay enshrined

THE LEGACY of the Ibaloi in the century-old Camp John Hay will be enshrined for the first time in a living museum as its government caretakers prepare for the issuance of the first Baguio ancestral domain title on camp grounds.

On July 11, officials of John Hay Management Corp. (JHMC), estate manager of the John Hay special economic zone, pulled out a decaying totem pole and relocated it at the Bell House, whose foundations date back to 1904.

This is the first of many Camp John Hay artifacts that JHMC is scheduled to rescue for the Bell House, which will be turned into a museum for the former American base's centennial celebration on Oct. 13, said lawyer Damaso Bangaoet Jr., JHMC executive vice president.

The totem pole, carved from an old electric pole by Ifugao woodcarver Ernesto Dul-ang in 1982, bears the bust likeness of nine American colonial government figures and, curiously, that of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, the man American soldiers targeted during the Filipino-American War.

The totem pole was commissioned by US Army Maj. John Hightower, one of Camp John Hay's former military administrators.

Dan Francisco, JHMC's unofficial relic hunter, is now looking for another totem pole that was carved from a tree in front of what used to be the historic Camp John Hay main club.

This historic facility was demolished by the leaseholder, Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevCo), which replaced it with the 189-room Camp John Hay Manor.

Francisco said any recovered relic would be stored permanently at the Bell House, which, along with the Bell Amphitheater and the Cemetery of Negativism, had been identified in the John Hay master development plan as its historic cluster.

John Hay's oldest facility will also house evidence that Camp John Hay used to belong to an Ibaloi herdsman named Mateo Cariño.

Cariño won a suit against the American colonial government in 1909 when the US Supreme Court ruled that what later became Camp John Hay rightfully belonged to his clan.

"We will not be (revisionist) when we tell the story of John Hay. Of course, the story will be about Americans. This is largely what John Hay was all about. But we will also establish the Igorot connection," Bangaoet said.

This connection still exists, not only because of a standing ancestral land claim over John Hay that is being staked by Cariño's heirs but also because of an Ibaloi community called Happy Hallow, he said.

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) had been negotiating with the Presidential Anti-Poverty Commission about the fate of Happy Hallow, which had been promised a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT).

The BCDA, John Hay's custodian, initially contested Happy Hallow's ancestral domain claims, although the community is one of 11 John Hay villages that are scheduled for segregation by the authority.

"We were never against the CADT. What the government wanted was for the Ibaloi claim to be processed properly. We did not want it to devolve into a real estate problem, with people staking individual claims over these lands. That would affect the management of John Hay," Bangaoet said.

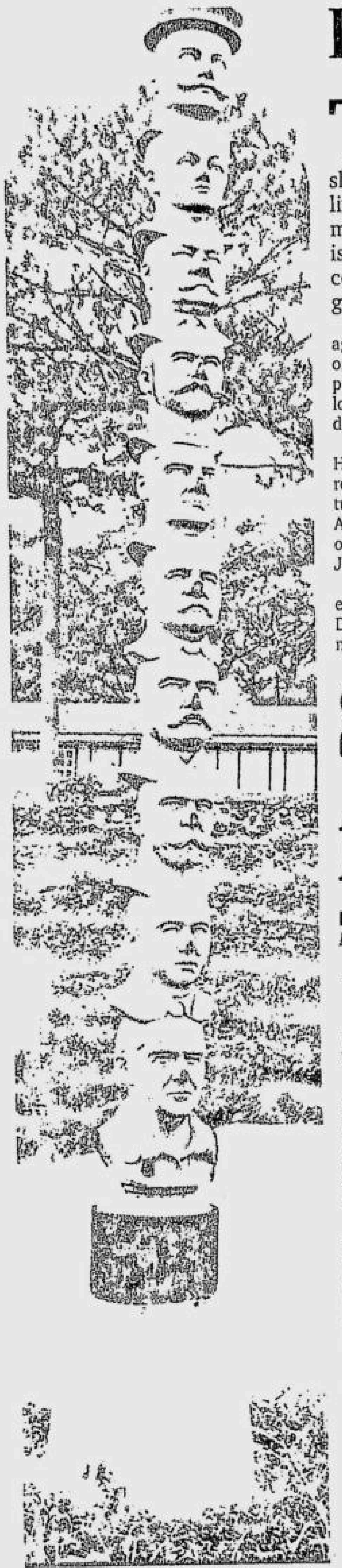
"In fact, I have told Dr. Julie Cabato, one of Baguio's Ibaloi leaders, that JHMC can help by opening a trail to Happy Hallow so people can see true Ibaloi crafts there. They can start a honey cottage industry or a rice terrace or anything that is authentically Ibaloi," he said.

Bangaoet said the Bell House could store some of the Cariño artifacts to cement John Hay's Ibaloi heritage. Cariño's legacy will be the first outpost in a series of 10 markers to be distributed around the half-a-kilometer long History Trail, which links the three-hectare historical cluster.

Bangaoet said President Macapagal-Arroyo had instructed the BCDA to conserve the forgotten American relics.

The camp used to be a 1903 garrison set up to accommodate American soldiers seeking rest in the only American hill station in the country. It later became a US rest and recreation facility before it was captured and converted into a Japanese concentration camp during World War II.

Vincent Cabreza



THIS totem pole, built 20 years ago by an Ifugao carver, was salvaged this month by John Hay Management Corp. for a museum they are building in Baguio City. It is one of a few remaining relics left when the former baseland was leased to a developer in 1997.

TOMMY HAFALLA

Searching for Markod

By Paulo Rafael Subido
Baguio City

BASED on actual events and backed by extensive research done here and abroad, "Bontoc Eulogy" is an exposé of sorts, shedding light on the events that transpired during the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair in Missouri.

In this 56-minute documentary film released in 1995 by Manila-born filmmaker Marlon Fuentes, bitter undertones are obvious and as the narrator speaks, one can't help but feel his anger and resentment toward American imperialism. Who could blame him?

Fuentes tells the story of Markod, a young Igorot warrior from Bontoc, Mt. Province, who is his tribal ancestor. Markod and numerous tribesmen agreed to go with the Americans on a journey to the United States as they were told it was their chance to show the world their way of life.

To the young Markod and others willing to go, the promise of an adventure in an unknown land was also too hard to refuse.

It is almost ironic that there was a celebration held before they embarked on that adventure. Unknown to all, Markod and many others were never to return home.

By the time the Americans made contact with Markod's people, it was the end of the Filipino-American War and the US government was vehemently implementing its "benevolent assimilation program."

The US government-sponsored World's Fair was, in fact, a grand display of American imperial might. Since it was established that the US was a colonial power, what better way to prove its intentions of "improving" the way of life in the Philippines by displaying its "uncivilized" people.

Nineteen hectares of land were assigned to the Philippine "reservation." Mock villages were built by the tribesmen from materials that were brought from the Philippines, and according to the exhibition catalog, there were 70 Bontoc Igorot, 20 Suyoc Igorot, and 18 Tingguian from Mt. Province and Abra.

It wasn't only the people from the Cordillera that were on display. There were also 30 Bagobo, 38 Negrito and Mangyan, 79 Visayan and 80 Moro peoples at the fair. All in all, 1,102 Filipinos took part in a living, breathing diorama.

Being the latest acquisition of the US, the Philippines was a big hit among the fair visitors. The Igorot village proved to be a huge success.

While Americans watched and took photos, Markod's people were forced to perform sacred rituals to the enjoyment of the crowd. The rituals were repeated over and over under the watchful eyes of the armed Scouts who patrolled the fair grounds.

This went on for months. It was a zoo, and for Markod and all the rest, there was no escape. The natives were prisoners.

Two Igorot men froze to death even before the ship carrying the Filipino participants could dock in San Francisco. They had died and in an act of cruelty, the bodies were never returned. It is malicious that the Americans did not allow Markod's people to mourn for their dead.

The fair also boasted of a section called "Mysterious Asia" wherein contortionists and other human oddities displayed unimaginable feats. It is sick that the Filipinos were placed alongside them, as it just went to show that the Americans viewed them as "freaks."

The exposition was a circus, and the act of displaying the Cordillera natives as if they were abnormalities of the human race was meant to further the American mission to "civilize" our people.

After the fair closed, the natives went on tour all across America and Europe, bringing money in to the promoters. For years this went on, and the fate of Markod and his people still remains unknown.

Fuentes' search for his long lost ancestor led him to a very gruesome and disturbing discovery. He found records stating that in the spring of 1905, an anthropology museum held three Filipinos in a morgue.

Upon further research, he found that the Smithsonian Institute (which I would more aptly call the Museum of American Imperialism) held three Filipino brains that were donated upon their death. Fuentes' ancestors had become specimens.

"Bontoc Eulogy" is Fuentes' personal quest for a history that needs to be reclaimed. There was a time when the upland people believed that being in a photograph takes away a part of their soul.

Imagine how the Igorot felt at the fair, watched and photographed by millions. If that belief were true, it was more than their souls that were taken away. Their history was lost, too. In the name of education, the history of these people was destroyed.

In a few months, it would be the centennial of the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair and the search for Markod continues.

The film ends with a cut from the first scene—Fuentes with his ear to a Victrola, listening to a recording of Markod's voice.

Like a broken record, the search seems to be perpetuated, with no end in sight.

A VINTAGE photograph of Antaero, an Igorot who was displayed by the Americans in the St. Louis World's Fair Exposition in 1904. Antaero's journey was studied by Ibaloi researchers here because it describes how the Igorots were lured to the US as living exhibits.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DISPLAYING FILIPINOS, UP PRESS 1995

A Filipino-American's nightmare

By Vincent Cabreza
Baguio City

EXPECT this Filipino to bellyache when US President George W. Bush arrives in the Philippines for a state visit in October this year.

Antonio Perlas, 49, was deported to the Philippines in March for infractions made by his younger brother, who had been using his identity.

On Dec. 8 last year, Perlas was pulled over for making an illegal left turn by police officers of Scotsdale, Arizona, as he drove back to his home in Chandler, Arizona.

His one traffic violation led to a series of traffic citations incurred by Romeo Roberto Perlas, 42, a former US Army soldier who was discharged for a drug conviction. Romeo Roberto had apparently assumed the name and social security number of Antonio.

But what irked the older Perlas was the treatment he received from the US Justice Department, even after an immigration judge dropped all the charges against him.

"I [realize] this is the fallout from 9/11 (Sept. 11, 2001 when terrorists bombed the World Trade Center and Pentagon). Filipinos have been experiencing the tension since 9/11. But we were treated badly, and an American official even described (Filipinos) as 'subhuman'," Perlas said.

Contrary to official reports, Perlas said he and 72 other Filipinos were flown back to the country on March 8, handcuffed and strapped to their airline seats.

He said they had been critical of the media reports, which trivialized the new wave of deportees from the US early this year.

"I was strapped down throughout the flight. My thumbs were cuffed, my neck and torso were strapped to my ankles, and I only came home with $3 in my pocket. Because of this mistake, I now have to rebuild my life here in Baguio at 49 years old," he said.

Shabby cell

The deportees spent a grueling 21-day detention in a shabby cell along with 50 other immigrants. They survived on crackers and slices of cheap bread.

This kind of treatment discouraged Filipinos, Latin Americans, and people of Mediterranean descent from fighting the US Immigration and Naturalization Service, Perlas said.

Perlas came home with a return visa issued by the US government. Ordinary deportees are barred from returning to the US for 10 years.

The visa "proves that [the US government] acknowledged its error," Perlas said, "[but] I am not going back."

He said he was suing the US Justice Department for his troubles, which cost him up to $100,000 in lost assets.

He said he was also suing his former American employees for stealing his business.

An accredited automobile pre-delivery inspector, Perlas had formed Car Cosmetiques, a car wash and automobile service center, at the heart of Chandler.

"I am looking for a [US lawyer] to help me *pro bono* [for free], because I really lost everything," he said.

According to him, he lost a home and other assets worth $140,000, an unused airline ticket worth $695, and jail time phone calls that reached $400.

Perlas said he spent two months from December arguing his case before the US Justice Department. The Federal Bureau of Investigation eventually cleared him. This forced Immigration Judge Sean Keeman to drop the charges against Perlas.

But the US government began questioning Perlas' residency status. Keenan had allowed him to apply for a new status, only to be stonewalled by an INS employee named Berry Miller.

Voluntary deportation

"Finally the judge granted me voluntary departure. But this Miller disregarded the judge's order. What he did was insert my papers with regular deportees [which was why Perlas was forced to join the second batch of deportees who landed in March at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Pampanga]," Perlas said.

He said Miller had been blunt about his contempt for Filipinos: "I have been in this business for five years. There is no way you are leaving! This is a waste of my time. You cannot travel like a regular person. You are sub human and are being booted out by the United States of America so you will have to wait until I tell you," Perlas quoted Miller in his documented chronology.

Perlas said Philippine Vice Consul Noemi Diaz had fought for his case.

But Perlas is still uncertain how he can punish his younger brother Romeo Roberto, whose old traffic citations and 1999 drug possession convictions while in the US Army brought him jail time.

According to Perlas' US-based daughter, Romeo Roberto is now using the identity of one of Perlas' sons, 31-year-old US enlisted man Lenin Antonio Perlas, who is now in the Philippines with his father.

Romeo Roberto was caught smuggling hashish when he was detailed as driver to a US general in 1999. He endured yearlong sentences for the two times he was caught with drugs, Perlas said.

Romeo Roberto was reassigned to the demilitarized zone (DMZ) in Korea. But he supposedly fled to the Philippines, and stayed in the country until he was discovered and shipped back to the US, where he was "dishonorably discharged."

Perlas said his brother was again jailed for defrauding an American foundation of donations. When he was released, Romeo Roberto followed Perlas to Arizona.

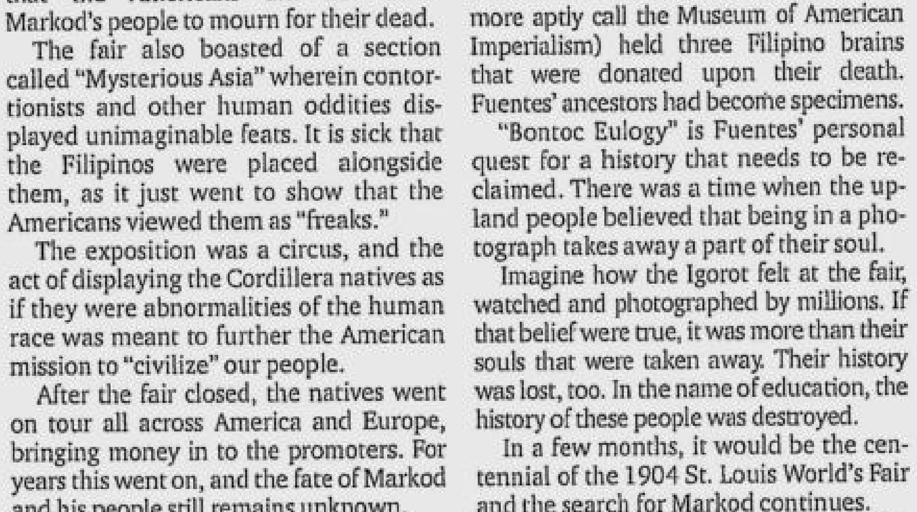
"I spent nine years building a life in Chandler. I remarried there. I have three children by my second [and now divorced] wife," Perlas said.

Life in Chandler had been pleasant for many Filipinos until the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center, he said.

Filipino immigrants flocked to Arizona because of its low-cost housing.

Perlas said townsfolk started asking Filipinos about their ancestry, and had usually pulled back upon discovering they came from the Philippines.

"They seem to have this idea that Filipinos are bad news. They have this question in their minds: Why did we let terrorists train in this country? That's the wide impression there," he said.



ANTONIO Perlas (carrying child) and his daughter's family in America. Perlas was suddenly extradited over charges hurled against his brother, who used his identity.

WORLD BANK LIST

Baguio among Asia's riskiest cities

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The city's experience during the 1990 earthquake, which measured magnitude 7.7 on the Richter scale, qualified it as among the seven risk-prone cities in Asia.

The World Bank's Disaster Management Facility in a report prepared by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center also cited Metro Manila among the riskiest cities in terms of natural disasters.

The other cities are Kobe, Japan; Kathmandu Valley, Nepal; Bangkok, Thailand; Daqing, China; and Bandung, Indonesia.

Thirteen years ago, Baguio was devastated by the earthquake and at least 1,000 people were killed or declared missing. The report cited the collapse of hotels and buildings like Hyatt Terraces, Nevada Hotel, Hilltop Hotel and the University of Baguio.

It said the vulnerability of the three major roads to and from Baguio—Kennon Road, Marcos Highway and Naguilian Road—was particularly suspect as these three roads were closed for weeks or even months after 1990.

Many buildings and houses were destroyed by landslides because of the city's mountainous terrain.

The silver lining in that earthquake, the WB said, was the role of the private sector in disaster management.

"Members of the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), a corporate-led social development organization, got together and formed the Corporate Network for Disaster Response (CNDR). CNDR was formed initially as a loose alliance of private firms which responded to the needs of victims of the July 16, 1990 earthquake," the report said.

Among the founders of the CNDR are the Makati Business Club, the PBSP, the Philippine Investment-Management Consultants, San Miguel Corp., the UCPB Foundation, and the Coca-Cola Foundation.

Non-government organizations in Baguio also formed their own consortium to help reconstruct the city. The Mines and Geosciences Bureau came out with a geo-hazard map showing landslide prone areas and karst (limestone) formations.

Most residents, however, ignored the proposed zoning. After a mild typhoon in May this year, landslides submerged houses along Dominican Hill.

Landslide areas include Aurora Hill, Holy Ghost, Camp John Hay, Pacdal, Camp 7, Military Cut Off and Magsaysay.

Karst areas include Dontogan, Crystal Cave, Dominican and Mirador Hills, Lourdes Subdivision and Rock Quarry.

The WB included Metro Manila among the riskiest cities because of its proneness to flooding. It cited November 1995 when three typhoons hit Metro Manila that claimed the lives of over 1,000 people and left thousands more homeless.

Kobe, Kathmandu Valley and Bandung were also cited for their vulnerability to earthquakes.

In January 1995, Kobe was hit by an earthquake that killed 6,000 people and destroyed about $100 billion worth of properties, about half of the city's normal economic output. Kathmandu was last hit by an earthquake in 1934 but that tremor destroyed 60 percent of the city.

Bandung's location right smack in a seismic zone and its three million population also qualified it as a very risky city.

Like Manila, Bangkok is also vulnerable to flooding. Daqing is vulnerable to river flooding, the WB report said.

OFW honored for sacrifice for fellow OFWs

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SANTO DOMINGO, Ilocos Sur—Overseas Filipino worker Elsie Tubon, 45, was earning P6,000 monthly as a domestic helper in Malaysia and left a huge debt in the Philippines.

But this did not stop her from helping a Filipino couple who left their employers in Malaysia when they were not given their salary.

"They are fellow Filipinos. I felt pity as no one would help them," Tubon said in Ilocano.

Touched by her deed, officials of Ilocos Sur recently honored Tubon, a resident of Barangay Napo here, who returned to the country on May 23 last year with a P60,000 debt she still had to pay.

Tubon, who worked as maid, herself had encountered problems in her status in Malaysia but availed herself of an amnesty program of the Malaysian government to enable her to return to the country.

She gave shelter to Edwin Gonzales of Cebu City, his partner Erlinda Martinez of Vigan City and their daughter Coralyn in Malaysia while they were trying to evade immigration authorities there.

Gonzales and Martinez met in 1997 while they were hiding from Malaysian authorities.

Martinez went to Malaysia in 1993 and was in her second two-year contract when she encountered problems. She said her employer did not give her 550 ringgit (P7,727.50) monthly salary for a year, forcing her to leave her employer. She failed to find another job.

Gonzales, on the other hand, was duped by his recruitment agency as he and fellow recruits were left to fend for themselves when they reached Malaysia in 1994. Some of them were arrested.

He stayed with a Filipino he met in Malaysia and had to contend with part-time jobs.

Tubon came into the picture when she went to Malaysia to work as maid.

Martinez's younger sister, Marites, who is married to Tubon's son Erickson, pleaded to help them locate her sister.

Upon arriving in Malaysia on Nov. 18, 1997, Tubon did not waste time and looked for Martinez.

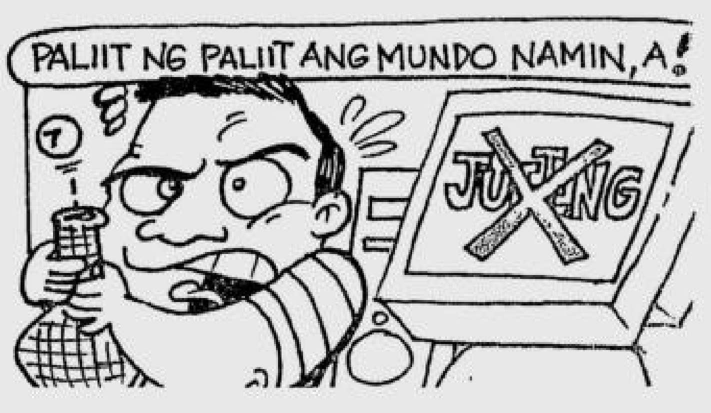
She admitted that she felt pity for the couple when she heard their stories.

"Their condition was really pitiful. They were broke and Malaysian authorities were looking for them," she said.

Tubon helped them find shelter, asking a Filipino friend to accommodate them. Tubon paid for the couple's rent and often gave them some money for food.

She said she initially concealed the matter to her husband but eventually revealed it as the latter was complaining of the paltry P1,000 to P1,500 she had been sending them monthly. She had to explain to her husband that she was helping the couple.

But Tubon, while coordinating with Ilocos Sur officials for the repatriation of the couple, suffered as she was often reprimanded by her employer for her frequent telephone use and mounting phone bills.


PALIIT NG PALIIT ANG MUNDO NAMIN, A!
JUETENG

'Jueteng' war goes to cyberspace

DAGUPAN CITY—The war against "jueteng" goes to cyberspace as the Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, a nationwide organization against the illegal numbers game, launched its own website last week.

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, Krusada chair, said the group also sent to Malacañang thousands of signatures of people asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to "order a no-nonsense drive against jueteng, to catch and jail the known jueteng lords and to identify and take action against jueteng payola recipients."

Cruz, who led the website launching at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines office in Manila, said the President would be a "big help" to the anti-jueteng crusade if she "supports us expressedly and continuously."

He said the Krusada was not aware of any anti-jueteng announcements of the President, in case she has made any.

The website (www.juetengfree.net) features the Krusada's mission, shows its national organizational chart and a list of its supporters in the country.

"It also says what jueteng really is—a slimy syndicate whose only 'god' is money, whose real name is 'corruption,' whose mere strength is the apathy of millions of people of good will," a Krusada statement read.

Jueteng in the country is still "alive and well," Cruz said.

"The poor continue to be duped, some public officials are still being corrupted by jueteng payoffs and jueteng operators are still lording it over certain police authorities," it said.

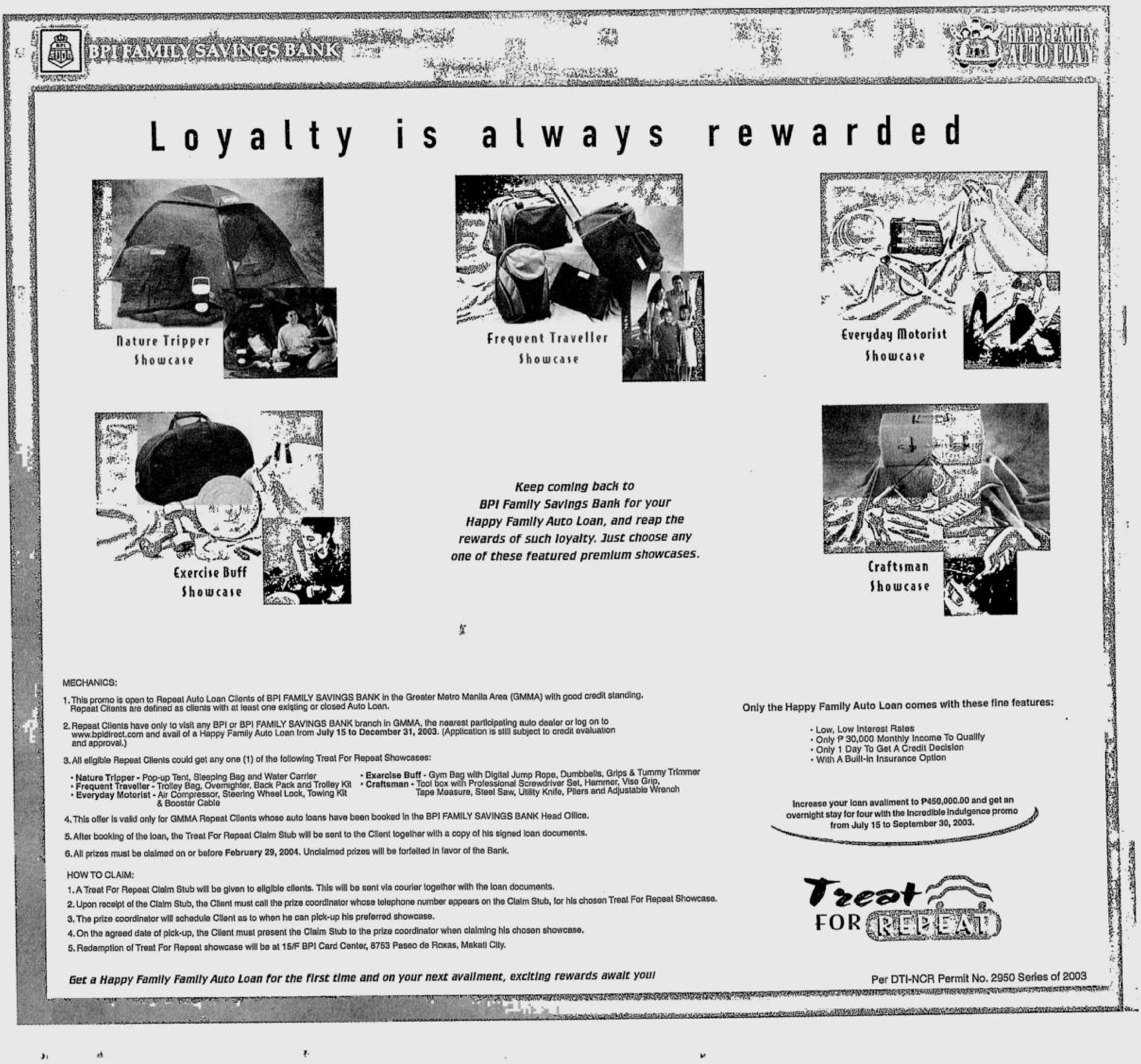
But Cruz was optimistic that the year-old Krusada could win the fight against jueteng.

"We have identified more than 70 congressmen, governors and mayors as official allies. The Krusada has also more than 500 chapters established in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao," he said.

The Krusada will begin the second search for more anti-jueteng public officials and police authorities in the country and will give them the "Gawad Parangal Para sa mga Mararangal" in November.

"The conferment of the award means that they are individuals uncorrupted by jueteng payola [and] this fact alone is already a tribute to their persons and an affirmation of the offices they hold," Cruz said.

Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau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Joker: Don't move P38B to national treasury

From page A1

PNB as a separate fund what is to be given to the human rights victims."

"Otherwise," he said, "it would be in danger of being utilized whenever the government coffers run dry."

The senator was reacting to the statement of Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin that the Marcos loot should be transferred to the Bureau of Treasury within the year.

Boncodin said on Monday that she expected the transfer "as soon as the 15-day appeal period (for the high court's ruling) is over."

Arroyo assailed Malacañang for saying that the money would be entrusted to the Treasury once the high court decision became final.

"Malacañang also said that P8 billion will be set aside for human rights victims during the Marcos years. There is a problem with such a procedure," he said in a statement.

Missing P8 billion

He recalled what happened to the P8 billion the government earned from the sale of prime portions of Fort Bonifacio when it was transferred to the Treasury in 1996.

Under the law authorizing the sale of Fort Bonifacio, the bulk of the money was earmarked for the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"The law also required that the funds be held in escrow precisely for the benefit of the AFP. What happened?" he said. "The proceeds were transferred to the National Treasury."

He said the funds were eventually spent for other purposes "whenever the government was short of funds."

"Thus the AFP was not modernized. That is why it is in a state of disrepair," said Arroyo, who believes that the same thing can happen if the P10 billion needed under Senate Bill No. 1877 to compensate human rights victims "is commingled with other funds in the National Treasury."

He said the procedure in the disbursement of the P38 billion in Marcos ill-gotten wealth should be carefully studied because the Supreme Court decision forfeiting the money in favor of the government was irreversible.

"With an overwhelming 10-1-0 vote, it is almost an impossibility that the decision will be reconsidered," Arroyo said.

Some Cabinet officials want the Marcos loot to be used for other purposes other than land reform to help close the budget deficit.

Comes now another claimant

HOUSING Secretary Michael Defensor wants slum dwellers in urban areas to have part of the P38 billion in the form of fresh funds for the government's housing program.

The urban homeless have as much right to the ill-gotten wealth as the rural landless, according to Defensor.

"Most of the urban poor are actually economic refugees fleeing rural poverty. But while those left behind enjoy a portion of the Marcos wealth, these transplanted poor are, by law, barred from being beneficiaries of this big resource," he added.

"It is time to review the theory that only the purchase of farm lots for the rural poor and not home lots for the urban poor should be funded from proceeds of the Marcos wealth," said Defensor, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

A portion of the Marcos loot, however, would only cover a small part of the P456 billion needed to finance the construction of more than 500,000 low-cost shelter units for slum dwellers in Metro Manila.

A study commissioned by the HUDCC said this number of low-cost houses needed in Metro Manila represented one fourth of the "national backlog" in housing.

"Poverty wears an increasingly urban face. Sixty one percent of the 83 million Filipinos now live in urban areas and about 15 percent of urban dwellers are considered poor," Defensor said.

"The rapid convergence of rural people to urban areas has caused a big housing problem, which equally needs big money to solve," he added.

So far, the pooled funds for housing amount to only P81.2 billion. The money came from the national government appropriation, the Pag-Ibig Fund, the Land bank of the Philippines, the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System.

How much to pay victims is decision of Congress

From page A1

committee on civil, political and human rights, said this amount was roughly equivalent to the $200 million House Bill No. 4535 seeks to grant to the victims of the regime of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Ms Macapagal said on Monday that once the P38 billion was transferred to the treasury the government would held in escrow P8 billion for the human rights victims until the enactment of the compensation bill. The Supreme Court declared last week the Marcos funds, formerly deposited in Swiss bank accounts, ill-gotten and forfeited them in favor of the government.

Rosales pointed out that the legislative, not the executive branch, would decide the amount to be given to Marcos victims.

Rosales said the compensation "cannot be arbitrarily set by Malacañang."

"But we welcome the President's statement in the sense that she's making sure that something will indeed go to Marcos victims," the Akbayan representative said.

Compromise

Two senators said the government and human rights victims should agree on a compromise so that the Marcos loot could be divided among the rights victims and landless farmers.

"My position is that the victims of martial law should really get compensation from the Marcoses. They were the ones who sued in Hawaii to get this judgment," Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said.

"But I think that a sizable amount of the award should really go to those who had been victimized under martial law," Pimentel said.

Sen. Juan Flavier said the martial law victims were entitled to an award because of the Hawaii court order.

He said he would support an amendment to Republic Act No. 6657 (the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law) so that the rights victims could be indemnified. RA 6657 says that all ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies recovered by the government should finance the land reform program.

Speed up Senate bill

Rosales urged the Senate to speed up the passage of Senate Bill No. 1877, the counterpart of HB 4535. Both bills seek to amend the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law.

Sen. Joker Arroyo is the author of SB 1877, the proposed "Human Rights Victims Compensation Act of 2001," which is pending before the committee on justice and human rights.

"We're calling on the senators to facilitate the passage of the counterpart measure," Rosales said.

The Senate is likely to beat the House in passing the counterpart bill at the committee level and in taking it to the floor.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, chair of the Senate justice and human rights committee, said the committee report endorsing the P10-billion compensation for human rights victims would be circulated starting this week for the approval and signatures of its 15 members.

"I will not discount opposition (to the committee report) but I'm optimistic we will get the majority eight votes," Pangilinan said in a phone interview.

He said he expected his committee to sponsor the bill on the floor by mid-next week or shortly after Congress reopens its session.

State obligation

In the explanatory note, Arroyo says the measure acknowledges that it is the obligation of the State to compensate victims of human rights violations and that it recognizes the various forms of violations committed during the Marcos regime. SB 1877 also recognizes the more than 9,000 people, who filed a class suit against the Marcos dictatorship, as human rights victims.

'Watering down'

The House has yet to pass its own version of the bill while the committee chaired by Rosales is being accused of watering it down.

Rosales is now pushing for a bill that will cover human rights victims of the Marcos regime and those of post-Marcos administrations.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran denounced the watering down of the bill as a move to "virtually remove all allusions to the Marcos dictatorship."

Rosales yesterday defended her action, saying that the bill will become a class legislation, and therefore open to constitutional questions, if it focused on the Marcos victims.

Beltran's colleague, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, said the solution to Rosales' problem was "right under her nose."

Ocampo was referring to House Bill No. 2192, which seeks to provide compensation to all human rights victims.

"Rosales and those pushing for a generic compensation bill should not gang up on HB 4535 ... because there is a pending compensation bill of universal coverage which Rosales seems to have forgotten," Ocampo said.

"There should be no conflict" if the two bills are passed, Ocampo said.

Rosales chided Ocampo for failing to see "under his nose" that HB 2192 had already been incorporated into HB 4535.

Unlike the row over the compensation bill in the House, Pangilinan said the proposed report of his committee was "specific" as it sought to compensate human rights victims of the Marcos regime between 1972 and 1986.

"It's P10 billion taken from Marcos' ill-gotten wealth (so it) should be used for Marcos human rights victims," he said.

"That's justice."

Compensable abuses

Pangilinan said the proposed committee report classified into three areas the "compensable abuses." These were torture and illegal detention, involuntary disappearance and extra-judicial killings.

He earlier told the INQUIRER that there was a need to compensate the victims of the Marcos regime "to show that the concept of public accountability is alive even if delayed."

"It also serves as a closure of sorts to that tragic chapter in our country's history," he said. "It's not about money per se but about justice and retribution."

In Malacañang, Presidential Legislative Adviser Gabriel Claudio said Ms Macapagal would certify as an administration measure a consolidated bill seeking to compensate the rights victims.

"What is important is for the House to come up with an approved version so that it can go into a bicameral conference committee with the Senate," Claudio said.

A presidential certification shortens a bill's journey in the legislative mill because the bill will get the support of administration allies. The certification also does away with the three-day requirement before a measure can be signed into law. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Juliet Labog-Javellana*

ERIK ARAZAS

BRAVE biker braves the overflow of waves along Roxas Boulevard whipped up by the winds of Harurot.

Man prefers prison to nagging wife, so he claims

From page A1

2-year-old son hostage in Makati City yesterday morning.

According to his wife Melanie's account, Del Castillo took their son Gabriel while she was sleeping at home on Heneral Tinio Street in Barangay Bangkal, Makati, and forcibly entered their neighbor's three-story house at about 8:50 a.m.

He took a 12-inch knife from their neighbor's kitchen and poked it at anyone who tried to get near him and the boy.

He then climbed up to the third floor of the house, tied a rope he had brought with him around his and Gabriel's necks, and threatened to jump.

In time, policemen managed to convince Del Castillo to surrender and hand over the boy to authorities.

Del Castillo later said he did not intend to harm Gabriel.

"I did it because I wanted to land in jail and get away from my wife," he told reporters in Filipino.

He said he was tired of hearing his wife nag about his drinking habits and lack of a stable job. He said he wanted to be jailed so his wife and children could face a good future without him.

"I'm a good-for-nothing husband and father, as my wife and parents always tell me," he declared.

Melanie, however, said she and her husband had no marital problems.

She said Del Castillo had earlier served as a guarantor to a friend who pawned a supposed gold bracelet to a neighbor for P700.

The neighbor subsequently discovered that the bracelet was fake and demanded that the P700 be returned. But the friend had since disappeared, and Del Castillo was forced to cough up the money.

That pushed him over the edge, Melanie said.

Asked if she had any anger toward her husband, Melanie said she had forgiven him.

In fact, she said, Del Castillo had been a good father to their six children.

Young naval officer reports death threats

From page A1

Class '94 had denied that they were part of the group of disgruntled officers while members of PMA Class '95 had claimed that fewer than 10 officers were spearheading the campaign to stamp out corruption in the military.

Even so, Abaya said he would order an investigation of the junior officers for possible breach of military protocol and articles of war, among other violations.

Abaya noted that some of the complains were true. But the rest were either untrue or outrageously "out of this world," he added.

Abaya sad he had advised the junior officers to air their complaints on graft "within the bounds of law," especially in the wake of reports that they had been receiving advice from Sen. Gregorio Honasan, who led a series of failed coup attempts in the late '80s against then President Corazon Aquino.

"What I have said was that I'm one with (them) in eliminating graft and corruption, but let's do it within the framework of the law," Abaya said.

"It's easy to write a paper especially in an academic environment . . . but if you try to do it within the system it's a little bit different."

Reyes bristles

In the same briefing, Reyes bristled at Sen. Rodolfo Biazon's charges that reports on restiveness of junior military officers had been stage-managed by Malacañang to divert attention from the embarrassing escape of a Jemaah Islamiyah explosives expert and two Abu Sayyyaf bandits from Camp Crame.

"Did he (Biazon) say that? To say that this restiveness was cooked up by government to divert attention from the Al-Ghozi case is coming from the left field. I can't imagine it. It makes no sense," said Reyes, knitting his brows as reporters sought his reaction to Biazon's allegations.

"I don't see how the government would want to do something like that. I can't understand it," Reyes added.

Biazon, a former AFP chief of staff, had charged that Malacañang leaked the information about the disgruntled officers to draw attention away from the escape of Indonesian Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and two notorious Abu Sayyaf bandits.

"The purpose of the leak was to create another story that would cover up the Al-Ghozi (escape)," Biazon said.

Out of proportion

Biazon earlier proposed that the President address the grievances of the restive officers by sacking Reyes for his alleged penchant for micromanaging the military.

Reyes, also a former AFP chief of staff, shrugged off Biazon's proposal and denied allegations that he had been paying too much attention to minor details.

The defense secretary also voiced hopes that the issue of the restive officers would be laid to rest, saying it had been "blown out of proportion."

"The chief of staff and I had a dialogue with the members of the so-called restive officers and there is no reason for us or the public to feel anxious or apprehensive about the situation," Reyes said at the press briefing.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

RPN-9 fires lawyer ...

From page A1

Ang, publisher of The Manila Times and once the President's personal publicist, for his misfortune.

The President "directly ordered my relief from the show even when there was no justifiable or legal basis therefor," Mauricio said, in a statement he faxed to the INQUIRER.

He said it was Cerge Remonde, RPN-9 chair and chief executive officer, who ordered him relieved on July 6. The following day, Remonde informed him about a "direct order by the President to take me off the show."

Remonde "narrated (to me) that he received the President's call (on) the morning of July 5."

Ms Macapagal's phone call "came not less than one minute after (Remonde) finished talking with Ang, who he said called him up earlier, also demanding my ouster," said Mauricio, quoting Remonde.

Ang was appointed chair of RPN-9 in June 2001 but served only a year. Remonde took over the post in June 2002.

"Cerge said he could have refused Dante Ang's request for my relief from the show considering their well-known feud and differences but since his superior, the President, also called him, Cerge said he could not do otherwise anymore," Mauricio disclosed.

But contacted at the state-run TV station, Remonde denied Mauricio's claims.

"If that's what he told you then it's his own word against mine," Remonde said in a phone interview. "The President does not interfere with matters like that," he said.

The RPN-9 boss also said "Dante Ang cannot be a reason [for Mauricio's predicament]."

Remonde denied Mauricio's claim that Ang had called RPN-9 to ask for the Directline co-host's dismissal. "How can I give in to such a request? It's common knowledge that (Ang) and I are not the best of friends," he noted.

Remonde told Mauricio was "not sacked from the program. We just asked him to take a vacation."

Asked why, Remonde disclosed the network's "reason for doing so," but asked this reporter not to make it public. "Off the record *na lang*. It's confidential," said Remonde, who is also chair of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP).

He added: "I feel betrayed. [Mauricio] and I had a very cordial, very amicable talk. I thought he understood what we talked about."

Ang's side

But Ang, who is on a business trip to Japan, admitted that he called Remonde "to complain about (Mauricio's) one-sided reports, not to ask for his head."

"*Nagreklamo lang ako* (I only complained). I asked (Remonde) why they allowed one-sided criticisms in that public affairs program, to think RPN-9 is a government network. I said [Mauricio] was doing disinformation," Ang said in the overseas call.

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Milton Alingod denied that Mauricio was booted out on orders of Malacañang.

He said Mauricio was asked to go on leave while being investigated on certain charges, which he did not specify. This was the explanation Remonde gave him, Alingod said.

Mauricio had earlier filed a petition with the Supreme Court, citing Ang for indirect contempt when he slammed the entire judiciary for harboring "terrorists in robes" in a speech before the Philippine Constitutional Association.

The lawyer also asked the Bureau of Immigration to deport Ang, whom he called a "Chinese national" and an "alien."

Lawyer's story

In his two-page statement, which he titled "Narration of facts, Dante Ang case," Mauricio recalled that on July 5 he learned from Marigold Haber, his co-host in Directline, and Philip Tan, the network's public affairs head, that RPN-9 general manager Baby Linao wanted to see him.

On July 6, Mauricio said, Ms Linao "told me that she was ordered by (Remonde) to tell me that I was being taken out of Directline."

"When I asked why, she said Remonde had told her this was asked (for) by Dante Ang and subsequently ordered by the President, apparently as a result of the INQUIRER story which came out last July 4 (and) which dwelt on Ang being a Chinese citizen ... I naturally protested. I said that was unfair."

On July 7, Remonde tried to talk to Mauricio but the lawyer refused. "Cerge should have at the very least stood by me and my right to continue with the show, considering his KBP position and considering I did nothing wrong in the show.

"In the early afternoon of July 7, he caught me through my cellular phone. His very first words were he was sorry. He said he was given a direct order by the President to take me off the show."

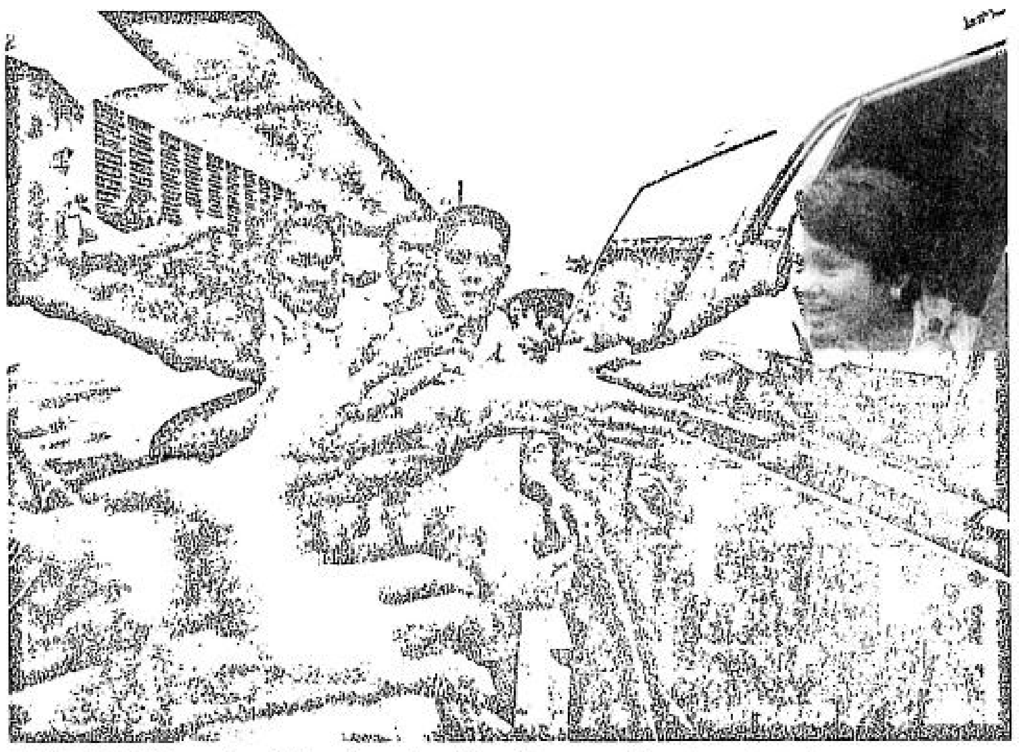
According to Mauricio, Remonde "begged me to be silent about this, apparently because he was aware of the serious constitutional implications of the issue. In exchange, he promised to give me other shows in RPN."

But "there is a serious constitutional issue here because it would appear to me that the President violated the constitutional guarantee of free press when she directly ordered my relief from the show," said Mauricio, who gave on-the-spot legal opinions and advice to people with legal and other problems during his 11-month stint as Directline co-host.

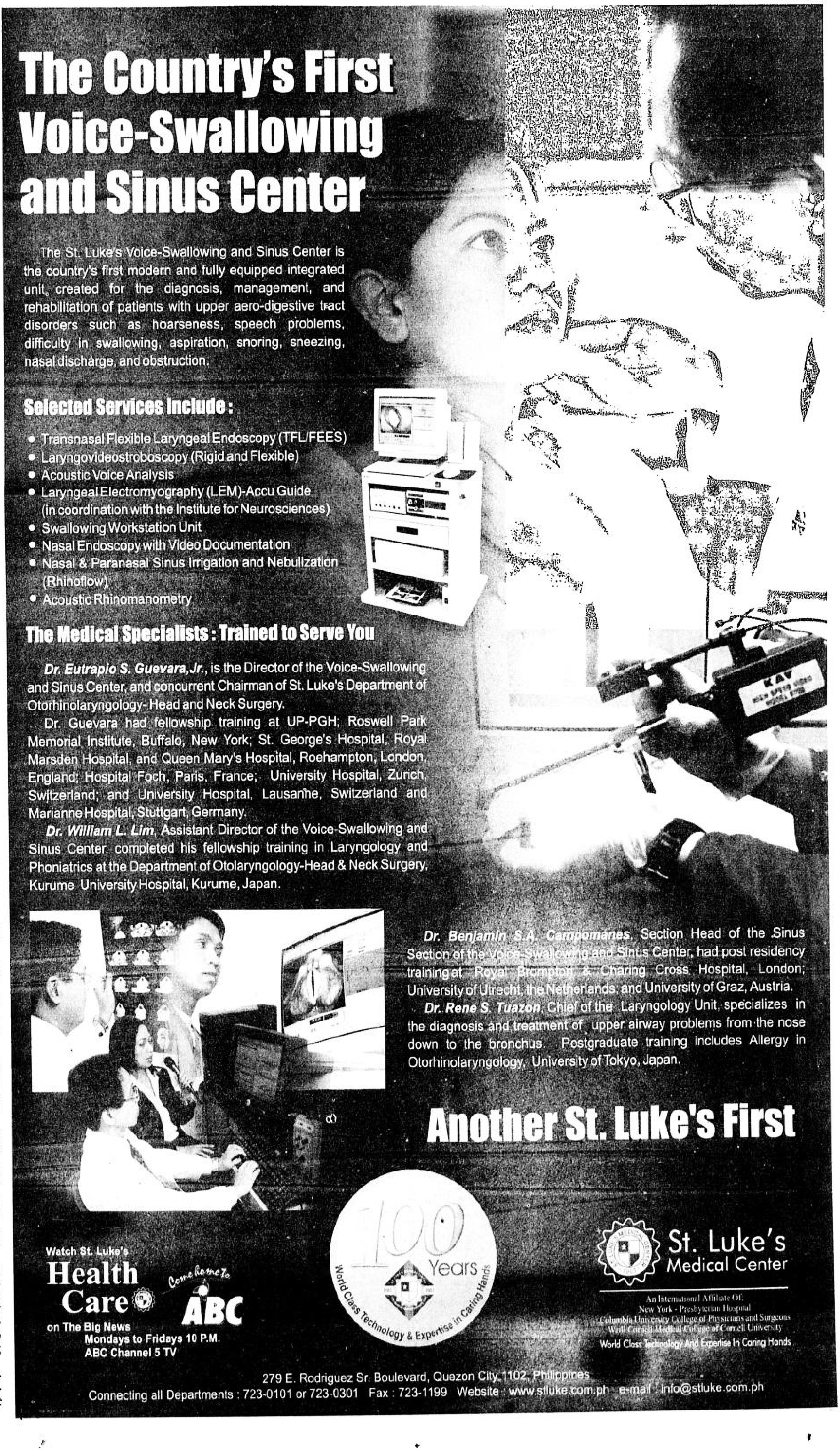
He called his relief from the TV show a "deprivation of my constitutional right to freedom of the press." *With a report from Juliet Javellana*

DANTE ANG

MELANIO MAURICIO



THE STORMY weather did not keep President Macapagal from keeping to her schedule—groundbreaking rites for a national high school in Taytay, Rizal, on Tuesday—but which had to be postponed as the schoolchildren had been sent home. EDWIN BACASMAS



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Dr. Guevara had fellowship training at UP-PGH; Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, New York; St. George's Hospital, Royal Marsden Hospital, and Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, London, England; Hospital Foch, Paris, France; University Hospital, Zurich, Switzerland; and University Hospital, Lausanne, Switzerland and Marianne Hospital, Stuttgart, Germany.

Dr. William L. Lim, Assistant Director of the Voice-Swallowing and Sinus Center, completed his fellowship training in Laryngology and Phoniatrics at the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, Kurume University Hospital, Kurume, Japan.

Dr. Benjamin S.A. Campomanes, Section Head of the Sinus Section of the Voice-Swallowing and Sinus Center, had post residency training at Royal Brompton & Charing Cross Hospital, London; University of Utrecht, the Netherlands; and University of Graz, Austria.

Dr. Rene S. Tuazon, Chief of the Laryngology Unit, specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of upper airway problems from the nose down to the bronchus. Postgraduate training includes Allergy in Otorhinolaryngology, University of Tokyo, Japan.

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‘Harurot’ slams Luzon; 6 killed

From page A1

The tricycle looked like a dilapidated tin can after rescuers pulled it out from under the fallen tree, the police report said.

Agence France Presse quoted Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman as saying that one other person drowned in the northern town of Alcala.

The Coast Guard in Legazpi City said Dominador Frundozo and Manuel Duran, both fishermen of Barangay Magnesia in Virac, were reported missing, as was Edwin Sia in Tiwi, Albay.

Harurot, which weathermen described as “disastrously big,” hit land in the coastal town of Palanan in Isabela at 10 a.m. yesterday with winds at 190 kph and gustiness of 230 kph. It has since weakened to about 140 kph and is expected to be west northwest of Laoag City this morning.

It is expected to be over the South China Sea near the southern tip of Hong Kong by 8 a.m. tomorrow. By tomorrow afternoon it is expected to be in the southern Chinese province of Hainan.

STREET children take shelter from the lashing winds of Harurot beside a decorative concrete boulder along the seawall of Roxas Blvd.

ERIK ARAZAS

Flights canceled

In Manila, strong winds and intermittent rains also caused the suspension of classes in various schools. *(See Metro, Page A24)*

At the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, flights bound for the Mindoro provinces, Aklan, Palawan, Legazpi City and Tagbilaran City were canceled.

Eva Air cancelled its flights to Taiwan, and other airlines such as Saudia and Qantas canceled or delayed flights to Taiwan, Hong Kong, Guam and Saipan.

In accordance with standard operating procedures, small aircraft were grounded in domestic airports, particularly in Northern Luzon, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon and Cordillera.

Power failure also struck the Naia and briefly disrupted its operations.

The airport’s two terminals experienced a 30-minute outage because the power generators did not immediately start. Electricity was restored only around noon.

Naia hotline

Manila International Airport Authority General Manager Edgardo Manda advised departing passengers and those collecting arrivals to first call the Naia hotline, 877-1109 (local 2 for international flights and local 3 for Philippine Airlines flights), for information.

The Manila Electric Co. said about a quarter of Metro Manila suffered intermittent power outages because of the winds.

Meralco call center chief Alex Evangelista said most of the outages were concentrated in San Juan, Manila, Quezon City and Makati.

“Strong winds are throwing objects against our power lines—trees and branches, pieces of metal and wood. These are causing our circuits to bog down,” he said.

Evangelista also said that although the outages were “widespread,” some cases lasted as briefly as a few minutes while others took at least two hours.

Stranded

The number of passengers stranded in ports throughout the Bicol region rose to 2,000 as the Coast Guard continued to suspend the operations of sea vessels because of heavy rains and rough seas.

Trips resumed from Matnog port as of 6:30 a.m. yesterday, but the passengers left still numbered more than 700, according to Rene Agao of the Philippine Ports Authority.

About 475 passengers were stranded in the port in Pilar, 250 in Bulan, 400 in Masbate, 30 in Virac, and more than 500 in Tabaco, Albay.

Hundreds of buses and public and private cars were also stranded.

In Tabaco, some Catanduanes-bound passengers decided to turn around and return to Metro Manila.

Agao said trips would resume soon after Pagasa declares sea travel safe.

Although the Bicol region was mainly spared Harurot’s fury, weathermen in Legazpi predicted continuous rains for the next few days.

Signal No. 1 was hoisted over various parts of the region except for Camarines Norte, which was under Signal No. 2 as of 10 a.m. yesterday.

Unroofed

Reports gathered by the INQUIRER showed that Harurot’s strong winds blew off the roofs of many houses in Isabela. Communication lines were downed, damaging relay facilities.

The Civil Defense Office said at least 1,000 families in the province fled to higher ground as continuous rains since Monday night caused floods.

At least 50 Isabela officials and members of a team that conducted a medical-dental mission in the coastal town of Palanan on Monday were reported stranded.

Personnel of the Benguet Electric Cooperative said the National Power Corp. ordered a power shutdown in Baguio and most parts of Benguet after Harurot damaged power lines and toppled electric posts.

Tree branches

Tree branches littered the streets of Baguio. Most of the shops were closed and employees of government agencies and private firms were sent home Tuesday afternoon.

But only Kennon Road was closed to vehicular traffic.

The Department of Public Works and Highways said there was no report of major landslides in Benguet as of 2 p.m. yesterday.

In Ilocos Norte, the city schools division of Laoag City ordered “optional attendance” in elementary and high schools, noting that there were no heavy rains in the province.

Classes in most schools in Laoag were held yesterday.

Pagasa raised typhoon Signal No. 3 over Aurora Clayan Islands, Babuyan Islands, the Ilocos provinces, Ifugao, Kalinga, Apayao, Abra, Mt. Province, Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya.

Signal No. 2 was raised over La Union, Baguio, Pangasinan, Benguet, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Northern Quezon, Polillo Islands, Albay and Catanduanes.

Pagasa declared the rest of Quezon, Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Marinduque, Burias Island and Sorsogon under Signal No. 1.

Mindanao

In the South, 18 of Maguindanao’s 26 towns have been flooded since Sunday, displacing some 48,000 people.

In North Cotabato, eight low-lying villages of Pigcawayan town have been submerged—a development that authorities blamed on illegal logging.

Maguindanao Provincial Administrator Norie Unas said at least eight persons were killed by the floods. But he did not give details.

Unas said the hardest hit was the town of Sultan Kudarat, located in the lower side of the province that serves as the catch basin of water from the Liguasan Marsh.

Thousands of sacks of rice in a National Food Authority warehouse in Barangay Bulalao, Sultan Kudarat, are being threatened by rising floodwaters.

Sultan Kudarat Mayor Tocao Mastura said the floods in barangays situated near the swollen Rio Grande de Mindanao rose as high as neck level beginning at 3 a.m. Tuesday.

“This is the first time this has happened in our town,” he said.

“We were asleep when water started coming into our homes,” recalled Carolina Botero of Barangay Bulalo. “When we left our house, the water was already neck-deep.”

Elsie Amil, Maguindanao provincial social welfare chief, said at least 50 houses had been damaged and three children were confirmed dead because of various illnesses. *Reports from Marlon Ramos and Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Villamor Visaya Jr., Melvin Gascon, Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Estanislao Caldez and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Jerome Aning, Ronnel W. Domingo, Norman Bordadora and TJ Burgonio in Manila; and Inquirer wires*

Typhoon blows away GMA’s schedule

By Romulo O. Ponte
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

STA.CRUZ, Laguna—Typhoon “Harurot” got in the way of President Macapagal-Arroyo’s visits to Laguna and Rizal yesterday.

In a speech here at the graduation of about 6,000 *barangay tanod* the President announced that her next scheduled stops in Siniloan, Laguna, and in Taytay, Rizal, were canceled because teachers and schoolchildren there had been sent home.

She was to launch her pet project, “Strong Republic School,” as well as her Kalahi (Kapit-bisig Laban sa Kahirapan) program at the Laguio Elementary School in Siniloan. From there, she was to preside over the groundbreaking ceremony of the Taytay National High School in Sta. Ana.

But after lunch Ms Macapagal still proceeded as scheduled, according to her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye.

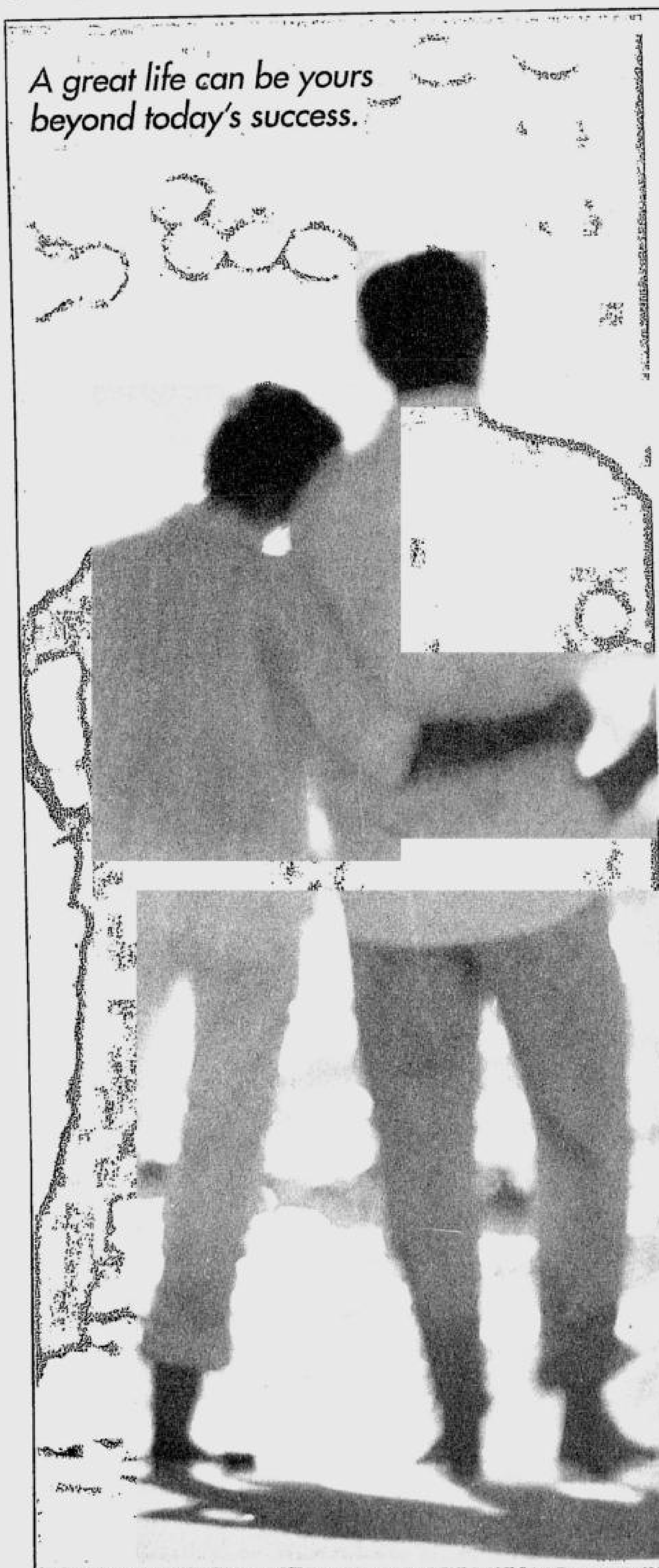
Bunye said in Manila that the President made a brief speech in Siniloan, where some 1,000 students and teachers reportedly waited in bad weather for her. She promptly sent them home.

The program held at the packed gymnasium in the San Luis Sports Complex here, which started at about 10:30 a.m., was interrupted by a 30-minute power outage.

While the program was in progress, Ms Macapagal had to take calls that caused her to go up and down the stage at least four times in full view of the audience.

But she was smiling throughout the program. She even sat with the audience to view the presentation of the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Philippine National Police on the campaign against illegal drugs and the two agencies’ accomplishments.

The presentation showed, among others, that the PNP had arrested 6,700 drug pushers and confiscated P9 billion worth of shabu. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana in Manila*



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Lacson accuses Matillano of muddling Al-Ghozi issue

By Christine O. Avendaño and Christian Esguerra

OPPOSITION Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday accused police Director Eduardo Matillano of muddling the issue of Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi's escape by "injecting political motives into the issue without the benefit of an iota of evidence."

"I find the tact employed by (Matillano) resorting to his usual innuendoes about my supposed involvement again in the media as most unfortunate and quite pathetic," Lacson said in a statement.

In an interview, Lacson said that he issued the statement after hearing from a cable news program and radio reports yesterday that Matillano had linked him to Al-Gohzi's escape because of his association with Supt. Reuben Galban, the prime suspect in the Indonesian bomber's escape from Camp Crame last week.

Galban, dismissed chief of the Police Intelligence Group's foreign Intelligence Liaison Office, had been holding that position since Lacson was chief of the Philippine National Police.

Apart from Galban, Matillano said he would call for questioning former Director Julius Yarcia, former director for intelligence during Lacson's term at the PNP.

"If we pursue the logic of Mr. Matillano, which is to link people on the basis of past-subordinate associations, then almost everyone in the PNP can be traced to me, as I once headed the entire organization," Lacson said in his statement.

Galban yesterday said he had no connection with Sen. Panfilo Lacson at all, an angle investigators are insinuating to back the "conspiracy theory" of the mysterious escape.

When Lacson was Philippine National Police chief, "not once did I talk to him personally," he told reporters.

This was largely because he was on floating status during that time.

Galban also denied links with Yarcia. "Let them invent all the stories they want," he said.

Unseen hands

In Camp Crame, the newly appointed officer in charge of the Intelligence Group warned of "unseen hands" trying to mess up its investigation into the escape.

JOAN BONDOC

A COMMAND conference on the PNP revamp and the Al-Ghozi manhunt is held at Camp Crame by the PNP brass: PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., Deputy Director General Virtus Gil and Deputy Director General Edgardo Aglipay *(extreme left)*.

"It seems that there are unseen hands manipulating the investigation," said Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao.

Lomibao arrived at this conclusion after the PNP received yet another false report, this time involving prime suspect Galban.

The officer had allegedly tried to escape yesterday morning on board a Northwest Airline flight.

"We checked this right away and it appears that the information was not true," Lomibao told reporters.

Senior Supt. Romeo Ricardo, the former IG officer in charge, said yesterday he also got a text message about the alleged escape plan at 7:42 a.m.

Lomibao said Galban could not have tried to escape because he is under "restrictive custody," meaning he is confined at the IG compound pending the completion of the investigation.

Also placed under the same restriction were Supt. Carlito Natanauan, Supt. Guillermo Danipog, Insp. James Dime, SPO3 Ruperto Principe, and PO1 Ronald Palmares.

Galban was even present when Lomibao, the PNP director for intelligence, formally took over Ricardo's post in simple rites yesterday morning.

Despite the attendance, Ricardo said authorities were still checking if Galban had tried to book a flight abroad.

Days after the escape, a caller identifying himself as Solaiman phoned a radio station, claiming that the jailbreak had been facilitated by Deputy Director Gen. Virtus Gil.

Then Matillano, the man tasked to solve the mystery of the escape, himself became the subject of a military surveillance.

The Naval Intelligence and Security Force was apparently fed the false information that the vehicle used to drive the fugitives to freedom belonged to Matillano.

"Hopefully, we can uncover these people who are manipulating the organization," he said.

Military probe

Meanwhile, the military's Anti-Crime Task Force (Actaf) has been ordered to explain Sunday's surveillance on Matillano, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya said yesterday.

Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, deputy chief of staff for intelligence, has initiated an inquiry into the operation and has summoned Actaf chief Capt. Oscarlito Mapalo to shed light on it, Abaya said.

"I had him (Mapalo) investigated regarding the incident," he said in a chance interview after a joint press briefing with Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes. He, however, declined to elaborate. *With a report from TJ Burgonio*

Foreign hand seen in Al-Ghozi escape; Galban breaks silence

From page A1

so wrong in this case was the fact that they did it at the expense of the national security."

If it was a special operations mission, who was the bigger target? A bigger personality within the Jemaah Islamiya terror group, he said.

"It's not a local intelligence operations (*sic*)," the source added.

3rd angle

The "special operations" angle—the third, after plain negligence and an opposition-instigated destabilization drive—is now being studied by a retired AFP official tasked by Malacañang to work "independently on this case," the source said.

In a separate interview, new IG head Chief Supt. Arturo Lumibao admitted that the angle was among those being considered in the investigation. But "no target would justify the humiliation brought about by this incident," Lumibao said.

He added: "No substantial proof has surfaced that could justify that what happened was part of a special operations (project)."

In Camp Crame, Galban refused to elaborate on his statement, saying he would tell all during the investigation being conducted by the Malacañang-formed fact-finding committee headed by former Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordoñez.

Asked why he thought he flunked a lie detector test, Galban gave no reason but vowed to prove this wrong "in due time."

3 questions

According to a source in the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, Galban had failed three questions in particular:

1. Have you received money?
2. What is your participation in the escape of Al-Ghozi and the two ASG members? and
3. Are you part of the planning?

Ricardo has not been subjected to a lie detector test.

Galban was initially dragged into the controversy primarily because of command responsibility.

As Filo chief, he was heavily involved in the investigation on the fugitives while coordinating with his counterparts in the foreign intelligence community.

His office was located near the inmates' detention cells on the second floor of the IG's old building in Camp Crame.

The PNP firmed up its case against Galban when investigators learned that he had returned to his office at the time when the fugitives made their escape between 3 and 5 a.m. on July 14.

Galban said there was nothing unusual with that.

"What you don't know is that I worked from 8 a.m. to 3 a.m. the following day," he said.

Ebdane pep talk

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., chief of the Philippine National Police. has moved to pacify a police force disoriented and demoralized by the controversial escape.

"Let us not get distracted by this unfortunate event," he said in a statement he issued after meeting with his top lieutenants in Camp Crame yesterday.

"Let us go on with our work because our citizens and our neighborhoods must be kept safe and secure."

Police officers, he said, are expected to "shape up, do the work, and get the job done" despite the grave embarrassment the escape has brought to the PNP.

Ebdane said he would not hesitate to sack more officers should they renege on their responsibilities. "There is no more room for laxity or sloppiness."

Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. said the police investigation of the escape would be brought to its rightful conclusion no matter who was involved.

Reacting to reports that an influential politician was being linked to Al-Ghozi's escape, Lina said the directive of the President was clear: "To leave no stone unturned."

In Congress, Rep. Joseph "Ace" Durano of Cebu (Lakas, Cebu) yesterday pushed for "systematic reforms" in the police jail system by installing security cameras and adopting tougher procedural requirements to prevent jail escapes in the future.

Proper systems

Durano, chair of the House committee on public order and security, said there had been too much emphasis on the "human factor." In reality, he said, it was the lack of proper systems which led to previous escapes.

"Our lack of system allows the incompetence and corruptibility of jail guards which has deteriorated (*sic*) the PNP image," he said.

Rep. Augusto Syjuco said the escape and the rumors of a coup by junior military officers only showed that the election period had started early.

Political season

"In short, political season has started. Must those who aspire conspire? Must our gains expire so that there will be those among us who can ride on the crest of a new leadership, yet again, on the ruins of our order?" Syjuco asked.

Rep. Rodolfo Albano (Lakas, Isabela) said it was about time Lina and Ebdane resign, for causing embarrassment to the country following Al-Ghozi's mysterious escape.

"If this were a civilized nation like Japan, Thailand, and Malaysia, the police chief would have resigned immediately," Albano said. *With reports from Christian Esguerra, Cynthia Balana and Nelson Flores*

Is Edris key . . .

From page A1

the Armed Forces.

He has been a government asset since 1994, a police intelligence source told the INQUIRER.

Edris was arrested last November by agents of the Philippine Air Force outside the PAF headquarters in Pasay City.

At the time of his capture last November, an elated President Macapagal said that Edris was "the No.1 bomber of the Abu Sayyaf."

According to the INQUIRER source, Edris was recruited by Capt. Jagger Guerrero of the Army Scout Rangers in Basilan. Guerrero, who had resigned from the service, is a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class '93.

Mission

Edris mission was to penetrate the Abu Sayyaf still then headed by its founder, the late Ustadz Abdurajack Abubakar Janjalani.

Edris was a perfect deep penetration agent, said the source, because he is a childhood friend of the younger brother of Abdurajack, Khaddafy Janjalani, now the chieftain of the ASG.

According to the source, Edris' mission with the Scout Rangers was shortlived but of vital importance to his handlers. He performed a crucial mission that escalated his status as a very important asset for the government.

Edris, according to the source shot and killed the first suspected deep penetration agent of the government in the ASG, Edwin Angeles in February of 1999.

The accomplishment of the mission also strengthened his ties with Khaddafy Janjalani. The latter had also wanted Angeles killed because the alleged DPA established the Ustadz Abdurajack Janjalani Brigade, which the younger Janjalani opposed.

In effect, according to the source, "Edris accomplished the mission both for the AFP and the ASG."

He was also briefly handled by the Philippine Marines but was later turned over to the Intelligence Service of the AFP (Isafp).

P30,000 salary

"Edris came in in the latter part of 1996 when the Isafp was still under Gen. Libarnes but was later turned over directly to Gen.Jose Calimlim during the Estrada administration," the source revealed.

Edris reportedly received a P30,000 monthly salary for his work as an "asset" for the Isafp.

Investigation

When he was arrested, Edris told investigators that his team "had conducted casing operation and prepared plans" for bomb attacks on the US Embassy and other foreign missions, government installations, commercial buildings and shopping malls in the city starting November 2002.

Then AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Benjamin Defensor said Edris received training from two Yemenis in making car bombs at an Abu Sayyaf camp in Basilan in 2001.

Edris was alleged to have described the Yemenis during his interrogation as "VIPS from al-Qaida."

Defensor said Edris was "implicated by his own cohorts in the Zamboanga City bombings that killed 12 people, including an American Green Beret, and wounded more than 200 others.

Defensor also said that five arrested Abu Sayyaf members had tagged Edris as the mastermind in the bombing of the Puericulture Food Court Center, the Fort Pilar Shrine, the Shop-O-Rama and Shoppers Plaza all in October 2002.

Edris also allegedly participated in the raid on the Dos Palmas resort in 2001 in which the Abu Sayyaf seized three Americans including Gracia and Martin Burnham, and 17 Filipinos. *With a report by TJ Burgonio*

Intelligence Group . . .

From page A1

Lomibao's response to the order of PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. for a "thorough housecleaning" of the IG as a result of the escape.

Ebdane jump-started the campaign by appointing Lomibao as officer in charge of the IG while serving as director for intelligence.

The latest relief order was more proof of key operational and structural lapses at the IG, which were unwittingly unmasked by the escape.

Among these were a defective jail gate and the designation of a rookie policeman to single-handedly guard three of the IG's most dangerous detainees.

President's regret

In Sta. Cruz, Laguna, President Macapagal-Arroyo said Al-Ghozi could not have escaped if she had not replaced Chief Supt. Jaime Karingal as head of the PNP Intelligence Group.

The President made this statement in a speech before 3,000 barangay tanods (village watchmen), in the presence of Interior Secretary Jose Lina and Karingal.

"I want to commend General Karingal, whom you know was the former head of the Intelligence Group. But you (in Southern Tagalog) needed a good regional director so I had to take him from the IG. Maybe if he was in the IG, this would not have happened. But he will help," Ms Macapagal said.

In a statement, the President said the hunt for Al-Ghozi, one of Southeast Asia's most dangerous terrorists, would test the integrity of the much-maligned Philippine National Police.

"This is a primary test for the rule of law and the integrity of the police," Ms Macapagal said, adding that if there was collusion, "all those involved up to the mastermind, must be prosecuted and locked up."

"A dead end in this investigation, just as a dead end in the hunt for Al-Ghozi, is not acceptable," she stressed.

The President ordered Ebdane to secure those with testimony or evidence so they could be made available to a fact-finding board she had created.

Yesterday, Ms Macapagal said the investigation should be done meticulously and thoroughly because it concerns national security.

She also said the people "must know the truth because this is a matter that concerns their own safety and that of their communities."

"I am directing the PNP chief to ensure that every person whose testimony has a bearing on this case is secured, and every bit of evidence is preserved ... for presentation before the Presidential Fact Finding Commission," she said. *With reports from Juliet Javellana, AFP*

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HCG Bathroom Beautiful

Raids fail to find Al-Ghozi, Abu duo

By Alcuin Papa and Leila Salaverria

THE POLICE yesterday found two houses which allegedly manufacture fake VCDs and DVDs and arrested a man with a shotgun. But they again failed to find Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi or the two Abu Sayyaf men who escaped with him on July 14 from Camp Crame.

At 10 a.m., around 200 heavily armed policemen raided the Quiapo Dos area of the Maharlika Village in Taguig in search of Al-Ghozi.

Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez, director of the Southern Police District, with Taguig police chief Supt. Rodolfo Sison, led the 200 members of the Special Action Force and the SPD.

Gutierrez said Al-Ghozi was the subject of the raid, but added that they were also looking for crime suspects who might be hiding in the village.

Eight "suspicious-looking" residents were invited for questioning but were also later released.

The raiding team also stumbled on two houses with replicating machines capable of making hundreds of pirated video compact discs and digital video discs.

They already coordinated with the Video Regulatory Board for investigation of the discovery.

Police however failed to find any trace of Al-Ghozi or the two Abu Sayyaf detainees, Abdulmukim Ong Edris and Omar Opik Lasal, who escaped with him from the Intelligence Group compound.

Maharlika Village chairperson Erlinda Pangandaman protested the raid, saying it violated an agreement she made with former National Capital Region Police Office chief Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay.

Pangandaman said she and Aglipay had agreed that any raid on the community should first be coordinated with its officials.

Gutierrez said he apologized to the village chair.

But Pangandaman said she would protest the actions of Gutierrez's men "even in front of the President."

In Manila, the Western Police District Police Intelligence Unit (DPIU) received information that two men who fitted the description of Edris and Lasal were seen with three other armed men at Isla Puting Bato in Tondo.

Acting on the information, DPIU operatives, backed up by members of the WPD Mobile Police Unit and SWAT team, were dispatched to Isla Puting Bato at about 5:30 a.m.

Upon arriving at the area, two unidentified men shot at the lawmen. No one was hit.

The two gunmen then sought refuge in a squatters' area.

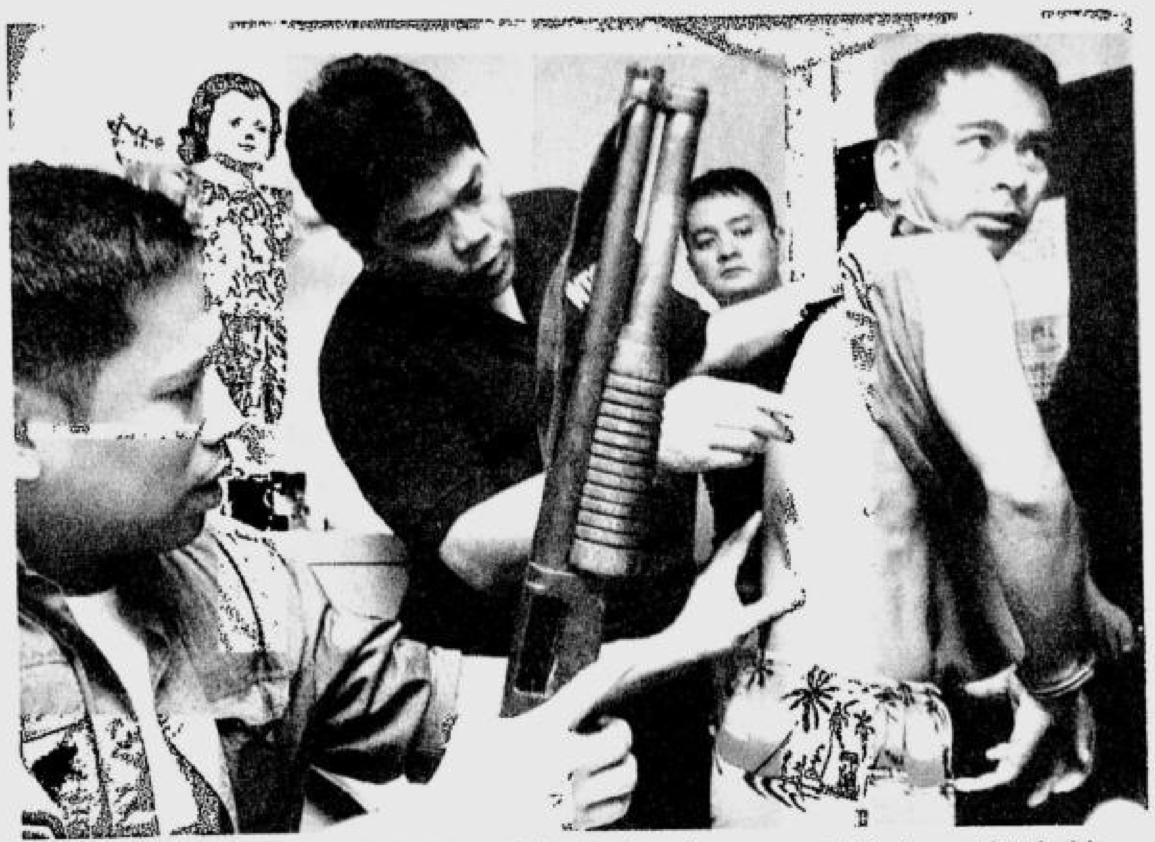
A shanty-to-shanty search failed to produce the fugitives. But police arrested Aldino Kaubag, 36, for possessing a 12-gauge shotgun and four live ammunition.

Police also found a homemade .38-caliber revolver and five live rounds of ammunition in the house adjacent to Kaubag's.

When the police came, the house's occupant had escaped by jumping into the sea.

Last week, WPD members conducted a sweep of the Muslim district in Quiapo, Manila after they received reports that the fugitive al-Ghozi was spotted in the area.

The Manila policemen failed to find the terror suspect, but rounded up 11 persons for questioning.



WPD DPIU chief Romulo Sapitula checks out Aldino Kaubag who was arrested during a raid at the Isla Puting Bato for allegedly firing at the police raiding team with a home-made shotgun. ERIK ARAZAS

Storm stalls filing of frustrated murder raps vs GTK suspects

By Leila B. Salaverria

STORMY weather yesterday prevented authorities from filing frustrated murder charges against Nilo dela Cruz's son Lejun and communist party mate Arnold Salazar.

Government offices were closed past noon yesterday due to typhoon "Harurot."

Chief Insp. Arturo Paglinawan, head of the Western Police District's General Assignment Section, said the police had all the documents ready for filing by noon, but the Manila prosecutor's office had already closed for the day.

"We'll file the case first thing tomorrow morning," he said yesterday.

The Manila police yesterday insisted that the arrest of Lejun and Salazar should not affect the ongoing peace talks between the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Nilo dela Cruz is the party chief of the Alab Katipunan, an affiliate of the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino-Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPMP-RPA-ABB). His son Lejun is the deputy secretary general.

WPD spokesperson Gerry Agunod yesterday said the police did not violate the peace process because the elder dela Cruz was never arrested. He said that Nilo dela Cruz was the only one covered by a safe conduct pass.

Agunod added that witnesses had identified Lejun and Salazar as the men who ambushed Go Teng Kok last July 1.

Supt. Edgar Danao, the leader of the police unit that invited Lejun and Salazar for questioning, said on Monday that the police did not even know that the two suspects were members of the ABB.

Danao said he only learned of Lejun and Salazar's affiliation when they questioned him on Sunday. He said the questioning of the two suspects were part of police operations to solve the Go Teng Kok ambush.

Interviewed on Monday, the 33-year-old Lejun denied involvement in the Go ambush. He said the police probably made up the story because they are looking for a fall guy.

Info drive on absentee voting law

By Tarra Quismundo

AKBAYAN Citizen's Action Party has launched a campaign to inform overseas Filipinos of the absentee voting law.

Relatives and friends are encouraged to send promotional postcards to OFWs. Around 10,000 postcards, where information about overseas voting can be read, were printed.

Printing costs were shouldered by non-government organizations, including the Center for Migrant Advocacy Philippines.

"We launched the campaign in time for the beginning of registration abroad this August," said Akbayan campaign coordinator Jessie Dimaisip.

Akbayan will soon release primers on absentee voting, Dimaisip said.

The absentee voting law, which was passed this year, allows overseas Filipinos to participate in national elections, and vote for the President, Vice President, senators, and party-list representatives.

The implementing rules and regulations on absentee voting is to be drafted by the House of Representatives when it resumes session next week, Dimaisip said.

Police team nabs 'wrong smokers'

By Margaux Ortiz

MEMBERS of the Makati City police team that conducted a surprise inspection at Greenbelt 2 and Glorietta the other night reprimanded the "wrong" smokers.

The Makati police, who conducted the inspection after receiving reports that some establishments have been allowing their patrons to smoke, chided about five patrons puffing cigarettes in open air.

According to INQUIRER photographer Boy Cabrido, policemen in uniform swarmed Greenbelt 2 at 11:30 p.m. and reprimanded patrons smoking in tables outside the air-conditioned establishments, including a waiter and a couple on a date.

"The people were visibly irked and argued that they were not violating the smoking ban," Cabrido said.

When they realized that the people they reprimanded were indeed smoking in open air, the law enforcers looked visibly apologetic, Cabrido added.

Sr. Supt. Jovito Gutierrez, Makati police chief, said that it was not pure ignorance of the ordinance on the side of the policemen but a matter of difficulty in distinguishing the enclosed and open areas in Greenbelt 2.

Gutierrez said a team of 15 policemen, with personnel from the city's health department and business inspection division, warned bar and restaurant owners against violating the smoking ban or risk facing closure.

The surprise inspection was conducted two days after the city government closed down restaurant "12" at Greenbelt 2.

The closure followed a complaint by a concerned patron who earlier complained to Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay. In his letter, the patron said the restaurant allowed customers to smoke inside the enclosed area.

He took slow bus to escape

By Luige del Puerto

A SLOW bus that a man took after allegedly robbing a Pizza Hut branch in Marikina City last Monday led to his arrest.

Police said Edwin Valerio, 34, of Barangka, Marikina, disarmed Pizza Hut security guard Dandy Recana and took the pizza store's earnings at around 9:30 a.m.

He then boarded a bus bound for San Mateo, but it proved to be a big mistake because buses plying the Marcos Highway are usually slow.

Recana ran after the bus and when he met two policemen manning a checkpoint, he asked for their help.

The three gave chase and nabbed Valerio in Barangay San Roque.

Police found P175,925 in cash from Valerio. They also found a stolen cell phone from the suspect.

This is the second time Valerio had robbed a Pizza Hut branch in two months, police said.

Environmentalists ask for a chance

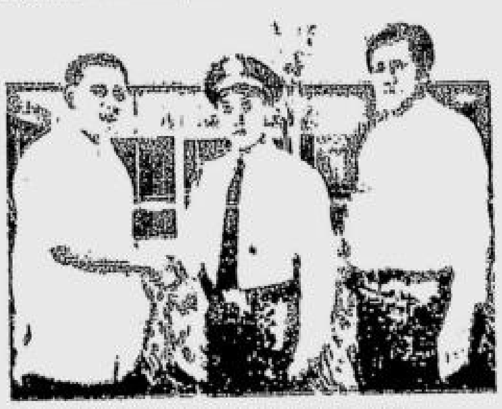
By Tina Santos

"NO, YOU should be the one to give us the chance."

This was the response of an environmental group to Manila Metropolitan Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando who earlier appealed that he be given the chance to proceed with the plan to remove the trees along Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City.

Fernando vowed that he would replace all the trees that the MMDA would have uprooted if the project failed to ease traffic there.

"Why not he give us the chance? If our solution do not work, then we'll talk," Ester Perez de Tagle, president of Concerned Citizens Against Pollution, said.



US MAYOR CITES SM GUARD

Antonio C. Cartagena, mayor of Walnut City in California, has cited SM guard Berllei Pila for honesty when the latter "promptly and without hesitation" returned the US official's wallet "with everything intact—important papers, US$ 4,700 as well as Philippine notes." Cartagena, who was on holiday, had inadvertently left his wallet atop the foreign currency exchange section of the SM Department Store in Bicutan. Pila, of Singer Security and Services Inc., is shown above with SM vice president for operations Jojo Mendiola (left) and SAVP for engineering and security affairs Antolin Paule.

In Mandaluyong, fat is beautiful

By Nini Valera

THEIR bellies rolling and their skin glistening with sweat, 21 heavyweight women oozing with confidence set a new standard in beauty contests last week with the fourth Bilbiling Mandaluyong beauty pageant held at the multi-purpose gym of city hall.

The contest, which has become part of the Department of Tourism's "Wow Philippines" campaign, is on its way to becoming an institution even if it started as a joke.

"We have a Miss Mandaluyong and a Mrs. Mandaluyong, but some members of the Kababaihan Kakaiba ng Mandaluyong (Women who make a difference) who were not slim in the traditional sense want to be represented in the city's beauty arena," said Menchie Abalos, wife of Mayor Benhur, in Filipino.

"So we thought of this contest for overweight women and called it Bilbiling."

Mrs. Mary Catherine Asilo, 24, who tips the scale at 180 pounds on a five-foot-two frame, won the title.

Asilo, who also won the Best in Long Gown and Bilbiling Talent for her song number, Celine Dion's "To Love You More," had another reason to celebrate that night.

"I just passed the board exam for nursing," she said after her coronation. "I am so happy I won."

As a health worker, Asilo is aware that being overweight is unhealthy. But she said she was happy that way and would stand by the principle that "fat is beautiful."

She asserted this point in the contest's question and answer portion and retorted to the terse question, "Fat is beautiful. Explain why," with her chin up.

She said: "Yes, I'm fat, but I'm beautiful. So I'm here. If we're not beautiful, then you would not be watching us."

The opening number of the contestants, a dance routine to the tune of the latest pedestrian hit song "Spageti," showed they were also bombshells.

There were the predictable Madonna wannabe's, a Hawaiian princess, a martial arts expert, the karaoke queens, and a Ben Tumbling act that brought down the house, to name a few of the numbers, in the talent portion.

The prizes, too, were tempting to these women, most of whom come from depressed areas. The winner received P20,000, plus gifts from sponsors. The runners-up also received hefty cash prizes, and even the non winners received P3,000 each.

One contestant said she could use the money to buy food for her family.

But this year's winner, Mrs. Asilo, also won her self-confidence. She said, "I have gained confidence in myself when I joined the contest. There's no reason to be ashamed because I'm fat. I may be fat, but I'm not ugly, and I'm very happy."

FAT is beautiful, according to BilbilingMandaluyong winner Mrs. Mary Catherine Asilo (right) shown here with last year's Bilbiling beauty, Mary Juana Paula B. Guiang

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Quadruplets' parents to pin down MCU men

By Blanche Rivera

Vladymir and Jocelyn Calisaan walk down the corridor of the Fabella Hospital shortly after learning that three of their daughters have died. Their fourth baby died the day after.

ERIK ARAZAS

THE PARENTS of the quadruplets who died after allegedly being refused treatment in various hospitals have accused Manila Central University Hospital staff members of charging them down to the babies' last diapers.

A member of the MCU hospital staff allegedly stopped the ambulance that would bring the babies to the Fabella hospital for incubation on July 15 to collect P147.20 for the babies' diapers, delaying the ambulance for another ten minutes.

Vladimyr Calisaan, father of the quadruplets, cited the incident in a complaint he filed before the Department of Health on Monday.

Calisaan said he and his wife Jocelyn would be running after the MCU hospital in particular because this was the institution that "lied to (them)... and put more importance in whatever money they could get from (the couple)."

In a two-page statement submitted to the DOH investigating team, Calisaan also said that the MCU never even bothered to explain to them why the babies were left in the emergency room for almost seven hours.

Health Undersecretary Margarita Galon said the five-member investigating committee has started to prepare subpoenas that would be issued to "all involved" in the delivery and treatment of the babies.

The Calisaan couple, however, said that they could not remember the names of attending doctors and staff members.

The DOH has formed a panel to look into allegations of the Calisaan couple that the quadruplets could not be admitted to hospitals unless they deposit from P15,000 to P20,000 per baby.

The investigators were given 15 working days, starting yesterday, to complete their inquiry and submit the report to Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit by Aug. 8.

Galon said that the DOH would impose administrative sanctions on health workers that would be found guilty of withholding medical attention during the emergency situation.

She said that the findings of the panel would have great weight in a criminal court, although there was no assurance that the team would recommend criminal prosecution. The criminal charges would have to be filed by the couple in the proper court, Galon said.

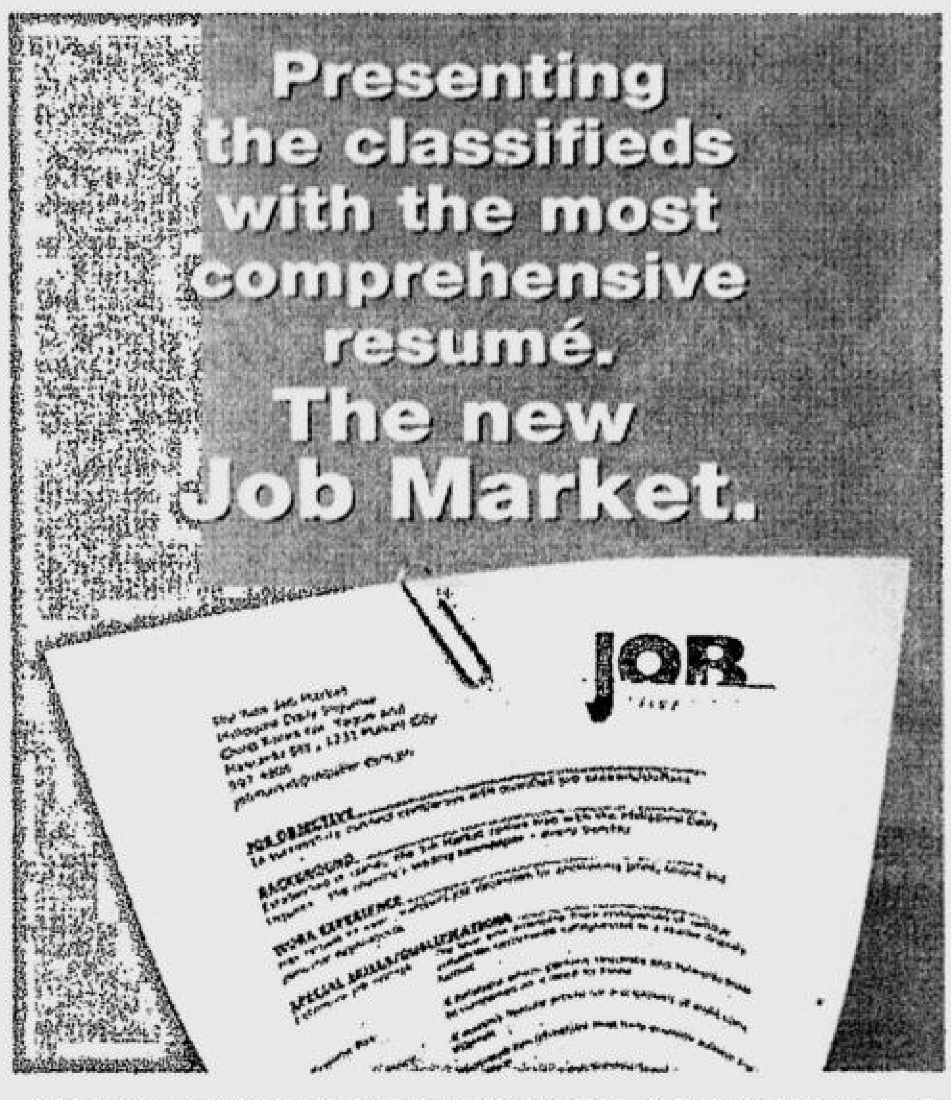
But that, she added, would be up to the couple.

"We're still thinking about it," Calisaan said in Filipino. "I want justice, but I also have to work for my other kids and following up on legal cases might not allow me to work."

In an interview, Calisaan said he has not talked to lawyers yet and was waiting for the result of the DOH investigation, along with the help promised by the President.

Calisaan also submitted receipts of the quadruplets' bill at the MCU hospital, along with the statement. The bill ran up to around P14,000.

All four babies died at the Fabella hospital last week.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GMA to DOTC: No more wide, paralyzing strikes

By Gil Cabacungan

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the Department of Transportation and Communications to avert another Metro-wide strike and continue its dialogue with striking jeepney organizations.

This came after several transportation groups took to the streets on Monday to protest government's plans to phase out jeepneys and impose high registration fees. The public utility vehicle drivers also opposed the mayors' decision to issue their own traffic tickets in their respective areas.

The President said that the DOTC must avert disturbances in the mass transport system and act swiftly to address grievances of the jeepney drivers and the immediate needs of the riding public.

She said the DOTC must ensure that transport facilities would be fielded to serve stranded passengers.

Monday's strike left thousands of commuters out on the streets with no means to get to their destinations.

A number of jeepney organizations led by Piston claimed to have paralyzed about 90 percent of the transport system in the metropolis.

METROBRIEFS

Judge's kin busted

A RELATIVE of Makati City Councilor Oscar Ibay and Judge Francisco Ibay of Regional Trial Court Branch 135 has been arrested for allegedly dealing in drugs yesterday morning. Members of the Makati Police Drug Enforcement Unit said suspect Bienvenido Ibay, 36, of Barangay Poblacion, Makati, was arrested near his house at around 11 a.m. yesterday. PO2 Virginio Acosta said police recovered three plastic sachets of shabu worth P300 each and P300 paid to Ibay by a policeman posing as a buyer. Ibay's father is a cousin of the councilor and the judge. *Alcuin Papa*

Indian killed

INDIAN moneylender Ricky Singh was shot to death by a robber inside a market in Las Piñas City yesterday morning. PO2 Eduardo Rodaje of the Las Pinas City Police Criminal Investigation Division said Singh, 21, of Bacoor, Cavite, was collecting money from store owners of the market on Zapote Road in Las Piñas when the suspect appeared and shot the victim in the head at around 11:30 a.m. As Singh lay on the ground bleeding, the suspect grabbed the victim's cash and escaped. *Alcuin Papa*

QC drug summit

THE ROTARY Club of Metro SFDM will sponsor the "Quezon City Summit for a Drug-Free Workplace" at the Amoranto Stadium on Aug. 11, in cooperation with the Office of the Quezon City Vice Mayor, DrugCheck Phils., and the Quezon City Anti-Drug Abuse Council. Rey Mendoza, RC Metro SFDM president, said about 700 QC-based companies are expected to participate in the drug summit. Interested participants may contact DrugCheck's Mylon Villasante at 628-0734, Rey Mendoza at 415-2520, and Rufino Co at 926-9535.

Pasay Rotary meet

DEPUTY presidential chief-of-staff Roberto "Bobby" T. Capco is the guest of honor and speaker of the Rotary Club of Pasay, Metro Manila's second oldest Rotary Club, today at the penthouse of the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Capco will share his insights on "Modern Leadership, Modern Citizenry for a Strong Republic" and on what it takes to be in the highest corridors of power.

Wet...

From page A24

cided with a tide higher than the 1.2 meters recorded yesterday, the floodwater could have been deeper.

Roxas Boulevard was flooded yesterday after winds threw Manila Bay's water inland, causing heavy traffic.

Food stalls along the recently improved Baywalk folded for the day because huge waves threatened to swamp and sweep them away.

"But so far, the rest of Manila suffered minimal damages," said Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Marikina City, which used to be a flood-prone area, did not receive any reports of flooding, according to Rescue 161 nurse Cupido Angeles.

The Tumana bridge, which is used as a shortcut between Marikina and Quezon City, remained passable.

Angeles said the water level of the Marikina river remained at 12.1 meters as of press time, way below the critical level of 15 meters.

In Caloocan City, "Harurot" forced bus companies to reduce provincial trips due to a smaller number of passengers.

Victory Liner terminal master Danny Bernardo said they had to reduce their trips yesterday from the usual 80 to 60. *Tina Santos, Margaux Ortiz, Edson Tandoc Jr., Tarra Quismundo and Luige del Puerto*

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS ON REDEMPTION OF REDEEMABLE PREFERRED SHARES

To All Stockholders of William, Gothong & Aboitiz, Inc. ("WG&A"):

Please be informed that in a meeting of the Board of Directors of William, Gothong & Aboitiz, Inc. ("Company") on June 26, 2003 the Board approved the partial redemption of the 149,808,113 redeemable preferred shares outstanding after the first partial redemption last Feb. 11, 2003 of the 374,520,487 redeemable preferred shares issued as stock dividends.

The Company will redeem one of each two Redeemable Preferred Shares ("RPS") held by each eligible stockholder of such shares for a price of P6.67 per share. Other than for fractional shares, this means 50% of the shareholdings of each eligible stockholder will be redeemed by the Company. To illustrate, if the eligible stockholder holds 19 RPS, WG&A will redeem only 9 RPS and 0.5 RPS will not be redeemed. Thus, the eligible stockholder will be paid P60.03 and shall be issued a new certificate for the 10 remaining RPS outstanding.

Any capital gains tax, documentary stamp tax, stock transaction tax, value added tax, brokerage commission, application fees of the Securities Clearing Corporation of the Philippines or Philippine Central Depository and stock certificates costs pertinent to the transfer shall be for the account of the eligible shareholders.

RPS shareholdings of eligible stockholders as of close of business on July 21, 2003 (the "Entitlement Date") will be redeemed by the Company on July 31, 2003 ("Redemption Date") by crossing such shares through the facilities of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Eligible stockholders who hold stock certificates ("Scrip Stockholders") should submit the following requirements to:

Securities Transfer Services, Inc. (STSI)
4th Floor Benpres Bldg., Exchange Road cor. Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Tel. Nos. (02) 449-6040; 631-7152
Contact Person: Mr. Angelo G. Macabuhay

For Corporate Stockholders

1. Duly accomplished Form* as a written instruction to surrender the eligible number of shares for redemption, to collect the redemption price, to pay pertinent taxes and costs and to claim the certificate of the remaining unredeemed shares.
2. The RPS stock certificate duly endorsed by the company's authorized signatory.
3. Secretary Certificate enumerating the Company's Authorized Signatories with their specimen signatures therein inscribed.

For Individual Stockholders

1. Duly accomplished Form* as a written instruction to surrender the eligible number of shares for redemption, to collect the redemption price, to pay pertinent taxes and costs and to claim the certificate of the remaining unredeemed shares.
2. The RPS stock certificate duly endorsed by the stockholder himself.
3. Specimen Signature Card (from any bank duly validated by the bank's officer) and two (2) valid identification cards containing the specimen signature of the stockholder.
4. For stockholders acting through a representative, a duly signed authorization letter. The representative must present a valid identification card.

For scripless shareholders, other than for fractional shares, Participating Brokers shall uplift 50% of their position on WG&A RPS on or before July 25, 2003 and shall forward a copy of the upliftment report to the Philippine Central Depository. Checks will be made available starting July 31, 2003, the redemption date, at the STSI office in Pasig City.

All RPS stock certificates surrendered for redemption shall be subject to validation by the Company's Transfer Agent, Securities Transfer Services, Inc. Any discrepancy will be communicated to stockholders either in writing or through phone. Hence, shareholders are strongly urged to give their telephone numbers and current address to STSI so that the shareholder could be informed immediately of any discrepancy.

The Securities Transfer Services, Inc. will issue the check payment pertaining to the RPS shares redeemed by the Company and release the stock certificate pertaining to the unredeemed RPS that remain outstanding after July 31, 2003. Checks and Certificates will be made available starting July 31, 2003 but shall only be released upon surrender of the RPS certificates.

WG&A appointed ATR-Kim Eng as its Broker for the redemption of RPS. For the convenience of eligible stockholders based in Visayas and Mindanao, stock certificates may be surrendered together with the other requirements at the Cebu and Davao branch offices of the Issuer's appointed broker. Check payment representing net proceeds or redeemed shares and stock certificate pertaining to unredeemed shares will be released upon surrender of RPS certificate and other requirements.

Eligible stockholders based in Visayas and Mindanao may surrender their certificate and claim their check and new certificate in the specified branch offices of ATR-Kim Eng below starting [illegible], 2003.

ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. – Cebu Branch
Mezzanine Floor, TPG Center
Escario cor. F. Ramos Sts., Cebu City
Tel. No.: (032) 255-1888
Contact Person: Cheryl M. Lim

ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. – Davao Branch
Dr.#7 M.T. Aquino Building
Cabaguio Avenue cor. Bolcan Street, Davao City
Tel. No.: (082) 224-2860
Contact Person: Miguel Luis R. Aquino

After Sept. 12, 2003, eligible stockholders must surrender their RPS stock certificates to STSI office in Pasig City. After compliance with the above requirements, such eligible stockholders will be able to get their checks and certificates pertaining to their unredeemed RPS only from the STSI office in Pasig City.

If you need assistance in completing the redemption form, please contact Ms. Annacel A. Natividad, Investors Relations, 11th floor Times Plaza Bldg., U.N. Avenue corner Taft Ave., Ermita, Manila, tel. no. (02) 528-7557.

June 26, 2003, Makati, Philippines

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
By:
Tiu, Helen Go
Tiu, Helen Go
Corporate Secretary

*For those eligible stockholders who didn't receive the above notice via registered mail together with the form for the Redemption of RPS, you may request for copies of this form from STSI** and/or ATR-KIM Eng. This form can also be downloaded from the WG&A Inc. website: www.wgasuperferry.com under Investor Relations webpage.

***Effective July 7, 2003, Brokers and the investing public are advised to course all transactions through the Company's new stock and transfer agent, Securities Transfer Services, Inc. (STSI).*

WG&A SuperFerry

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2 4 1 5 3 6

SUERTRES (In exact order)
2 6 0

6/42 Luzon
3 13 21 28 38 41

Vis-Min
5 13 19 31 32 41

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

A BOY tries to shield himself from the fury of "Harurot" along Roxas Boulevard. REUTERS

Wet and windswept

THE RAIN did little damage but the winds brought by typhoon "Harurot" shook much of Metro Manila.

Packing winds of up to 190 kilometers per hour near the center, "Harurot" toppled trees and cut power lines and prompted schools in the metropolis to suspend classes in elementary and high school by noon.

In Quezon City, government employees were sent home at 2 p.m. as trees and billboards fell on the streets.

Fortunately, no one was reported hurt, said Noel Lansang, special operations officer of the city's Department of Public Order and Safety.

Several trees along Congressional Avenue, Commonwealth Avenue, Scout Chuatoco corner Scout Santiago and Scout Reyes corner Jasmin Street in Barangay Roxas were uprooted.

A waiting shed on Barangay South Triangle near the GMA TV station on Edsa collapsed.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said there was only "pocket flooding" in some areas which also quickly subsided.

MMDA Undersecretary Cesar Lacuna said some of the flooding was due to improperly disposed of trash.

He cited the flooding at the Edsa-Kamuning flyover in Quezon City. "We discovered that pieces of plastic had clogged the flyover's drainage pipes," Lacuna said.

The perennially flooded streets of Malabon City were underwater but remained passable.

However, Malabon City Social Welfare officer Evelyn Moreno told the INQUIRER that had the rains coin-

Wet/ A23

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SPORTS

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

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■ Armstrong crashes, then crushes Tour rivals /A28

Pacquiao sees win but can't say how

PACQUIAO is certain of winning against Mexican Lucero. VAL HANDUMON

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES, California—He swore he's as strong, fit and ready for battle as when he stopped a mandatory Thai challenger in Davao City last November, but nobody could force Manny Pacquiao to predict how he expects to succeed in the fourth defense of his world superbantamweight boxing crown this Saturday (Sunday morning in Manila).

If it would be by knockout, he would not know, Pacquiao told the INQUIRER yesterday after eating out with his lovely wife in a Filipino restaurant, a sort of reward for himself after having completed his 90-round sparring regimen.

"*Ayaw kong masabihang mayabang, basta ibibigay ko lahat* (I don't want to be called a braggart, I'll just do my best," Pacquiao declared inside his room at the Vagabond Inn off Vine St. in Hollywood.

All he's certain about is winning, Pacquiao said, and went on to dedicate the fight to his family, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the Filipino people, in that order.

"*Sama rin diyan si* Mayor Lito Atienza," Pacquiao added, obviously in reference to the March 15 fight at the Luneta hosted by the City of Manila, where the lone reigning Filipino world boxing champion was jolted and got knocked down before he could stop his obscure featherweight foe from Kazakhstan.

That Luneta fight, which Mayor Atienza offered free to the public, did serve as a wake-up call for Pacquiao, who obviously came half-prepared for that non-title affair.

This is a totally different Pacquiao that came here for an all-important championship date.

He maintains a strict diet in time for Friday's weigh-in, but the glow in the champ's eyes, his ruddy cheeks, his overall happy attitude, reveal that everything is in place in his training and preparation.

Upon returning to his hotel with a new haircut yesterday, Pacquiao declared he's ready for whatever his unbeaten, big-punching challenger would dish out.

Actually, Pacquiao's handlers yesterday said they have no idea if challenger Emmanuel Lucero is already in town; or, if he's around, where he stays or where he works out.

But come fight time, the people around Pacquiao, mainly trainer Buboy Fernandez and business manager Rod Nazario, agree that the champ would not have a hard time finding and hitting his opponent.

"Freddie Roach has prepared him for all possibilities," said Lito Mondejar, who assists Nazario in charting Pacquiao's career.

"Whether he has to counter or give chase, Manny has all the necessary weapons."

Initially, Pacquiao had to perfect his counter attack and the uppercut. But after that, Roach also made the champ work extra hard in foiling the right straight, deemed as Lucero's sharpest weapon.

Pacquiao is done with sparring, but he will continue working the road in the morning and will report later until Thursday afternoon at Roach's Wild Card Gym, located right beside the $75-a-night hotel where the champ stays, some 40 steps from the auto shop where the legendary James Dean worked with the sportscar which he drove to his death in September 1955.

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SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBDL - Life in the League; 7:30 a.m. (r - 11:30 a.m.); Solar Sports - Take a closer look at the struggles of aspiring ballplayers in the NBA's developmental league.

Mystics vs Sparks; 10 a.m. (r - 9 p.m.); Solar Sports - Struggling Washington clashes with defending champion Los Angeles in this WNBA match - up.

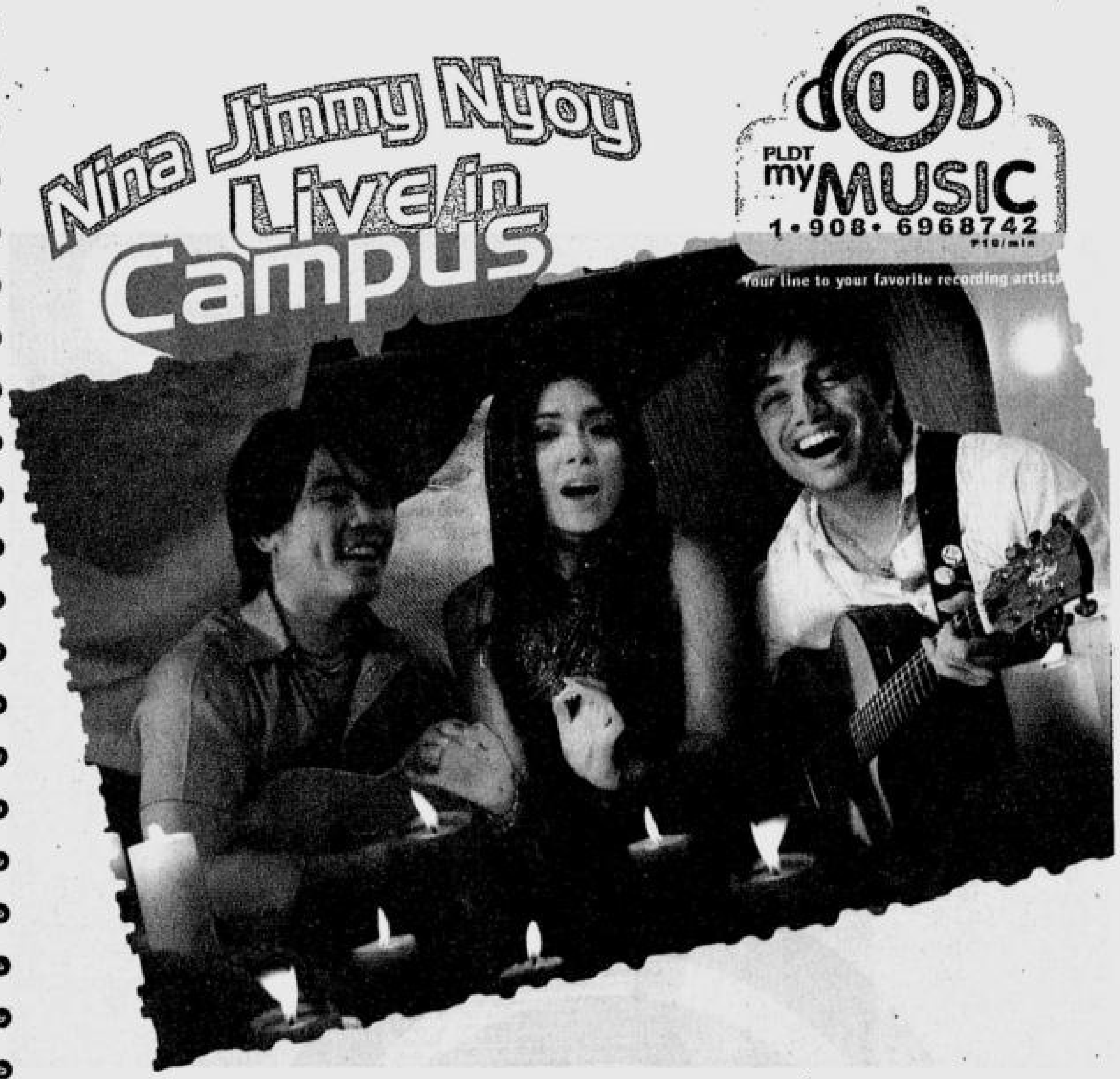
Jazz vs Blazers, Game 5; Western Semifinals; 8 a.m. (r - 5 p.m.); Solar Sports - Utah battles Portland in a crucial playoff game in the Western Conference.

GOLF: LPGA Wegmans Rochester; 10 a.m.; ESPN - Final round action goes underway for the ladies.

CYCLING: Tour de France; 12 noon (r - 6:30 p.m.); ESPN - See if Lance Armstrong withstands the pressure put on by pursuers led by rival Jan Ullrich.

TENNIS: Davis Cup 2003; 2:30 p.m.; Solar Sports - Catch quarterfinal doubles action in the most prestigious inter - nation tournament.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.



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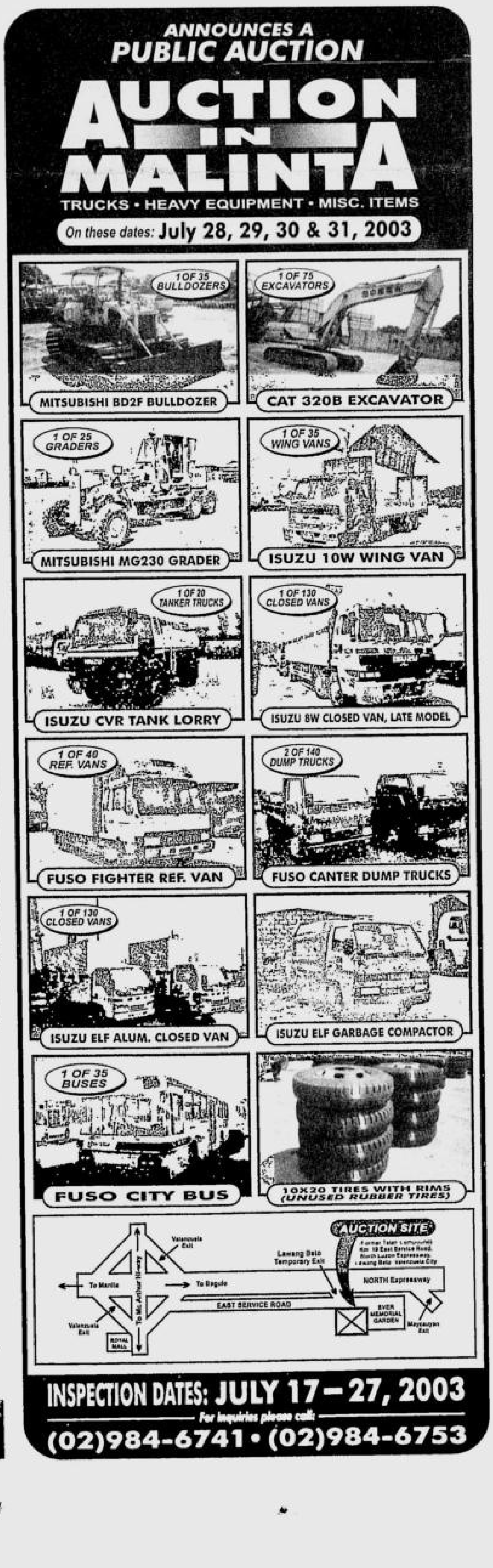

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1 OF 20 TANKER TRUCKS — ISUZU CVR TANK LORRY
1 OF 130 CLOSED VANS — ISUZU 8W CLOSED VAN, LATE MODEL
1 OF 40 REF. VANS — FUSO FIGHTER REF. VAN
2 OF 140 DUMP TRUCKS — FUSO CANTER DUMP TRUCKS
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Slambang action up in PBA Invitational

By June Navarro

UNLIKE in the All Filipino, the PBA's mid-season tournament that begins Sunday featuring the first foreign teams in over two decades guarantees no-holds-barred action throughout.

The eight teams in the Samsung-PBA Invitational championship have been bracketed into two groups where the top two teams advance to the knockout semifinals after a single round.

This format ensures unforgiving play every day, unlike in the last tournament, won by Talk 'N Text, where the teams loafed through the rest of the schedule after a certain number of wins.

The Phone Pals, seeking a second crown after ending a seven-year title drought, are bracketed in Group B with Red Bull, FedEx, Yonsei University and a Yugoslavian selection.

In Group A are All Filipino Cup runner-up Coca-Cola, Alaska Milk, San Miguel Beer, the Philippine team and China's Jilin Yi Qi Tigers.

A Korean team led by hotshot Lee Chung-hee was the last foreign squad to play in the league in 1982.

"We're delighted with the cast we have assembled," said Commissioner Noli Eala. "Fans can expect slambang action from day one."

Talk 'N Text can expect a rough stint in its bracket from Red Bull, which is aching to rebound from an early exit in the season-opening tournament.

South Korea's Yonsei University should also be a tough nut to crack, with four national youth players in its line-up as well as national men's team mainstay Bang Sing-yoon.

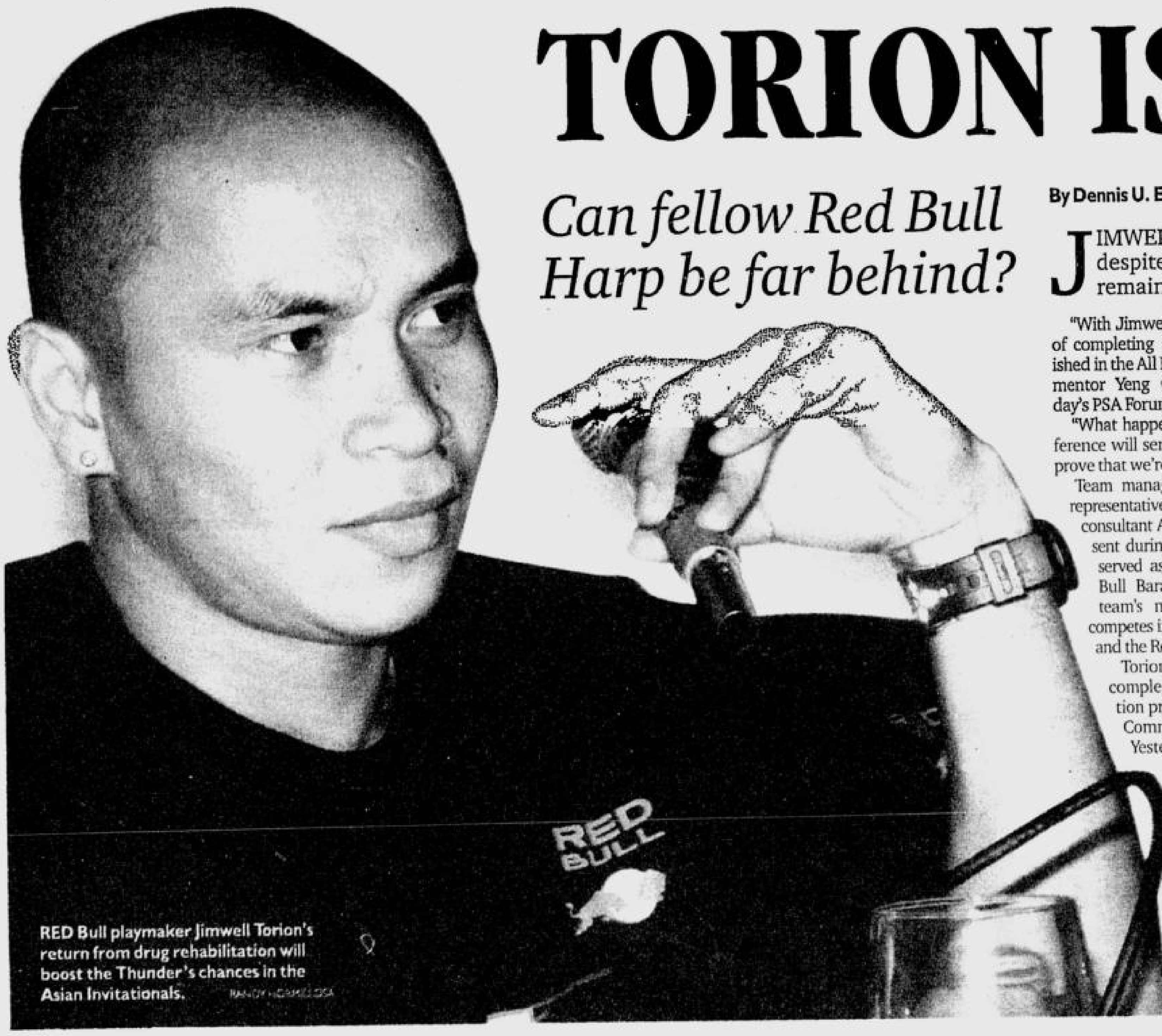
The Yugoslavians, whose stint here will be backed by Lamoiyan Corp. are a mix of collegiate and commercial players with an average height of 6-6.

The race in the second group will also be too close to call with many-time national player Sun Jun, who led the Chinese league in scoring last season, spearheading the Magnolia-backed Jilin Yi Qi Tigers.

ALL FILIPINO champion Talk 'N Text can expect a tough fight from Red Bull.

TORION IS BACK

Can fellow Red Bull Harp be far behind?



RED Bull playmaker Jimwell Torion's return from drug rehabilitation will boost the Thunder's chances in the Asian Invitationals. RANDY HORMILLOSA

By Dennis U. Eroa

JIMWELL Torion is back, but Davonn Harp's return, despite passing a recent drug and hair analysis tests, remains uncertain.

"With Jimwell back, we're positive of completing a business left unfinished in the All Filipino," said Red Bull mentor Yeng Guiao during yesterday's PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn.

"What happened to us in that conference will serve as rallying point to prove that we're the best," said Guiao.

Team manager Tony Chua, board representative George Balagtas and consultant Andy Jao were also present during the affair, which also served as the launching of Red Bull Barako Coffee Drink, the team's newest name when it competes in the Asian Invitationals and the Reinforced Conference.

Torion was reinstated after completing a drug rehabilitation program ordered by PBA Commissioner Noli Eala.

Yesterday, Guiao expressed confidence Harp would also get the go-signal to rejoin the Thunder in the Invitationals, which starts on Sunday.

Red Bull officials said Harp, 25, was certified drug-free last July 15 following an examination conducted by the Asia Pacific Medical Diagnostic Services.

The 6-foot-7 bruiser had also tested negative for prohibited drugs following a hair analysis test given by the Psychemedics Corporation which is based in Culver City, California.

"We're confident of Davonn's return that we only have an 11-man lineup in the next conference," Guiao said.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to get in touch with Eala. Willie Marcial, chief of the media relations department, said Eala was out of town but promised to update the INQUIRER regarding Harp's case as soon as his boss arrives.

Red Bull officials said Bernard M. Regalado, an accredited Dangerous Drug Board physician, and program director for drug abuse prevention and control, certified last July 15 that Harp has no signs and symptoms of drug dependency.

"Mr. Harp is not a drug dependent," said Dr. Regalado in his certification, after Harp's urine specimen tested negative for methamphetamine and tetrahydrocannabinol (marijuana). Harp also tested negative from opiates, amphetamines, cocaine, phencyclidine following the hair analysis test, team officials said.

Nicknamed Typhoon for his explosive moves, Torion's return will be a big boost for Red Bull in the backcourt.

SEA Games roster finalized today

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE SEA Games Task Force hopes to finalize today the composition of the Philippine contingent to the 2003 Vietnam SEA Games scheduled Dec. 5-13.

Bowling president Steve Hontiveros, the Task Force chief, said several national sports associations have only until today to submit the number of athletes they planned to send to Vietnam and their credentials.

Basketball and badminton have yet to submit their rosters along with athletics, which is waiting for the result of the Asian trackfest here in Manila this September before finalizing its SEAG lineup.

Based on the criteria of at least a silver medal in the last SEAG, athletics is entitled to field close to 30 athletes.

The Task Force has already approved more than 400 athletes to the SEAG and the Philippine Sports Commission, told by Malacañang to finance all qualified bets, expects a budget of more than P50 million for the actual participation in Vietnam.

With the estimated cost of P70,000 for each member, a delegation of 500 athletes and 250 officials would need P52.5 million. That cost covers the plane fare, hotel expenses, allowances, uniforms and equipment.

The PSC has already spent at least P150 million for the foreign exposures of most of the 27 NSAs going to the Games.

PSC chair Eric Buhain said the agency is ready to bankroll the entire delegation especially now that it has scrapped three sports development projects this year and channeled the funds to boost the SEAG budget.

The country hopes to finish at least third in Vietnam after slipping to fifth place in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur Games.

Meanwhile, Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim yesterday said the coaching staff headed by Aric del Rosario was supposed to submit the men's team lineup, but were unable to do so because of the inclement weather.

Manila using Batang Pinoy games to get ready for SEAG

THE PHILIPPINE National Youth Games, otherwise known as Batang Pinoy and scheduled in January in Manila, gives the city a chance to also show its readiness to host the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza said the city hopes to provide a glimpse of how Manila would run things in the SEA Games when it hosts the fifth staging of the games for kids 12 years and younger.

"There will surely be maximum participation when the event is held in Manila because it's easy to send delegations here," said Atienza, whose charges have dominated the Batang Pinoy in its previous stagings in Bacolod, Laguna and Palawan.

Atienza, whose brainchild Manila Youth Games had close to 10,000 youths taking part early this year, said there is a dearth of grassroots development projects now that the Luzon, Visayas and the National Games have been scrapped. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

NCAA ACTION

Bombers hope to stay on top vs Dolphins

GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Coliseum*)
11:30 a.m.—UPHR vs Letran (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—JRU vs PCU (srs/jrs)

By June Navarro

JOSE Rizal aims to stretch its winning streak when it battles Philippine Christian today in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

On a four-game roll after dropping their opening match against the San Sebastian Stags, the Heavy Bombers hope to raise their leading record to 5-1 against the Dolphins in the 4 p.m. mainer.

The Perpetual Help Altas (2-3) and the Letran Knights (3-2) attempt to recover lost ground in the other senior tussle at 2 p.m.

Their junior counterparts see action at 11:30 a.m. while the JRU Light Bombers and Baby Dolphins clash in the nightcap.

Marco Paolo Fajardo, Edward Attuñaga, McDonald Santos, Mark Borboran, Wynsjohn Te and rookies Kenneth Coyukang and Mark Lindaya have been blending perfectly in the past three games where the Bombers pulled off convincing victories.

Utilizing their vaunted running attack, the Heavy Bombers have destroyed the Mapua Cardinals, San Beda Lions, Knights and St. Benilde Blazers.

But the Dolphins, riding high on a 79-58 whipping of the Altas last week, may yet become the Bombers' main obstacle on the way to the first-round flag.

"If we play the same intensity that we showed against Perpetual, then we have a good chance of beating the Bombers," said PCU coach Jimmy Mariano, whose Dolphins snapped out of a two-game slump in beating the Altas for a 2-3 record.

The Altas, bidding to arrest a three-game slide, must get superb games from Dom Javier, Khiel Misa and skipper Marcel Cuenco, whose performances dipped after showcasing their potential in Perpetual's big start last month.

Only Gerald Botin and Rommel Balboa have played consistently for the Altas while pivotman Robert Barnson remains a doubtful starter due to a knee injury.

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Basketball Tournament

Seniors

STANDINGS	W	L
JRU	4	1
Mapua	4	2
San Beda	4	2
Letran	3	2
SSC-R	3	3
Perpetual	2	3
PCU	2	3
St. Benilde	0	6

Juniors

STANDINGS	W	L
San Beda	6	0
Mapua	4	2
LSGH	4	2
SSC-R	4	2
Letran	3	2
PCU	1	4
UPHR	0	5
JRU	0	5

MYX
STUDI
23
MAPUA
6

JEFFERSON Gonzales of Mapua drives off Gilbert Louie Sanidad of St.Benilde in the game won by the Cardinals, 83-63 Monday. RUDY ESPERAS

La Salle-Zobel upsets UP five

DE LA Salle-Zobel, which missed the Final Four last year, nipped defending champion University of the Philippines-Integrated School, 49-47, last Saturday to stay unbeaten in the UAAP high school basketball tournament at the Loyola Gym.

The Bengals leaned on the steady performances of starting playmaker Lope Juban III, 6-foot-5 slotman Manuel Paulo Abelardo, Jose Antonio Roxas, David Poblete and Kiel Flores to upstage the Preps.

It was the second straight victory for La Salle-Zobel, which debuted with a 73-62 triumph over Santo Tomas during the opening of the 66th UAAP season last July 12 at the Big Dome.

Displaying poise under pressure, the Bengals did not blink when the Preps, who beat the Ateneo Eaglets in last year's finals, made a furious fourth-quarter comeback.

"We are happy with our showing but the tournament is still a long way to go. The boys are playing solidly but other teams are also impressive," said team manager Jun Juban.

UP, which blasted the NU Bullpups, 91-41 last July 13, dropped to 1-1. *Dennis U. Eroa*

Disappointment of the year?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

FOR MANY, the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite is a candidate for disappointment of the year, saying that after it opened last April 1 with much media hype and expectations, the racing complex is now in deep trouble, buttressing their fears that SLLP is not yet ready to hold big-time races. Maybe in the next six months or so, they added.

"One can clearly see that the Carmona turf was opened in a hurry, albeit haphazardly," they said. "The decision of the Philippine Racing Commission to allow the holding of races at the unfinished park was wrong. The races were held amidst conditions unfit for racing."

In reply, Philracom chair Jaime Dilag had said that while there have been problems in the transfer of the operations of the Manila Jockey Club Inc. (from Tayuman Street in Manila to Carmona in Cavite) these problems are "manageable and could only be expected as part of any pioneering venture."

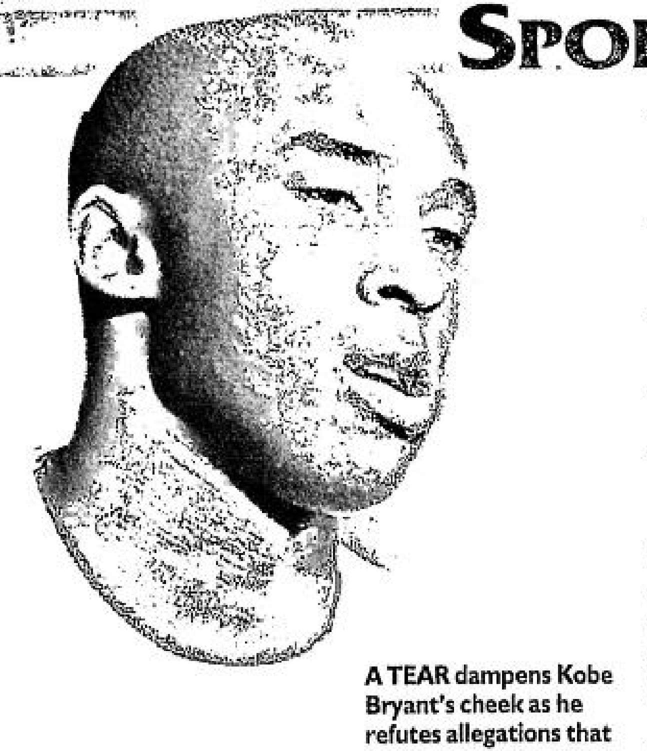
Still the racing fans stressed that these problems are too serious to be taken lightly. Most recently, SLLP's night races last Wednesday and Thursday were cancelled due to power failure. As a result, the succeeding weekend races—including Sunday's Horseman's Cup (won by long shot Success Story)—were held much earlier.

I also received several complaints from many OTB bettors who said they felt they were cheated because the television coverage of the races at their off track betting stations went off the air following the "brownout" at the venue without any explanation from either the TV people or the host club. Naturally, they were left in the dark, second guessing about the outcome of their hard-earned bets. The way the races and TV coverage were cancelled at SLLP was a big disgrace to the king of sports, they stressed. I say amen to that.

***

THE PAST OLYMPIANS. LOUIS SPIRIDION, a shepherd from Amarousi, Greece, became the first Greek champion of the modern Olympic Games when he won the Olympic marathon in 1896 in Athens... With his four gold medals in the 60-meter dash, 110 m hurdles, 200 m hurdles and long jump at the 1900 Paris Games, American ALVIN KRAENZEN set a record for individual victories at a single Olympiad...ARCHIE HAHN, another American track and field champion, became the first to win both the 100m and 200 m at the Olympic Games. Hahn accomplished the feat in 1904 at St. Louis...DORANDO PIETRI of Italy, despite entering the stadium first in the marathon in the 1908 London Games, collapsed five times and had to be helped across the finish line and was disqualified. However, in defeat, his name became more famous than that of the winner...JIM THORPE, also of the United States, was part Sac and Fox Indian. The native American won both decathlon and pentathlon in 1912 at Stockholm and earned the title as the world's greatest athlete. He lost the gold medals for playing semi-pro baseball but regained the medals after these two were restored by the International Olympic Committee in 1983...SUZANNE LENGLEN of France hogged the spotlight in the 1920 Antwerp Olympics after winning two gold medals in tennis where women athletes came to the fore. American Aileen Riggin also shared the winner's podium by capturing the springboard diving at the age of 14. Belgium hosted the 1920 Games to help in the healing process after World War I cancelled the 1916 Games in Berlin. Also in Antwerp, Italian Nedo Nadi, the most versatile fencer in history, completed his six-gold medal victories in the 1912 and 1920 Olympics winning in all three weapons, the epee, the foil and the sabre...PAAVO NURMI of Finland won a record nine gold and three silver medals between 1920 (Antwerp) and 1928 (Amsterdam). Nurmi, "The Flying Finn," won an amazing five gold medals in the 1924 Paris Games; the future Tarzan, American JOHNNY WEISSMULLER, swam to three; and Britain's Harold Abrahams, who inspired "Chariots of Fire," won the 100 m. Weissmuller, the virtual inventor of freestyle swimming, won a total of five golds and one bronze medal in 1924 and 1928. He passed up the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles to become a Hollywood star, appearing in 12 movies as the apeman. But despite earning several million dollars, he died broke in 1984 at 79, crippled by strokes...

Kobe's on-court future uncertain



A TEAR dampens Kobe Bryant's cheek as he refutes allegations that he is guilty of sexual assault. AP

WASHINGTON—The uncertainty hanging over National Basketball Association star Kobe Bryant, charged last week with sexual assault, extends to his on-court future.

Bryant, 25, had already been expected to miss the Olympic qualifying tournament in Puerto Rico next month because of knee and shoulder surgery.

He has been selected to represent the United States in the 2004 Athens Games, and no decision will be made on his Olympic status until after a possible trial on charges of sexually assaulting a 19-year-old woman while staying in a hotel near Eagle, Colorado, on June 30.

Bryant was formally charged on Friday, and his next court date is scheduled for August 6 in front of a Colorado judge.

There could be a request for a preliminary hearing, and if Bryant enters a plea then he would be entitled to a trial within six months. A trial is likely to take four to six months.

Bryant says the woman consented to sex, and his lawyer has said he will plead not guilty.

The NBA says Bryant can remain on the Lakers' roster when training camp opens in early October. *AFP*

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Armstrong crashes, then crushes Tour rivals

ARMSTRONG strains in the final ascent of the 15th stage, a few minutes after crashing with Mayo (top left). Ullrich avoids the spill. AP

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Hot-hitting Sosa keys Cubs' rout of Braves

SOSA AP

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GARCIA

YOUNGSTERS Rener Mercado, 14, and Judith Anne Melencio, 12, won the Modern Standard and Latin American junior disciplines of the recent seventh Midyear Ranking and Alaxan FR Cup under the auspices of the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City. Cited recently by the Philippine Sportswriters Association and the DSCP headed by Becky Garcia, Mercado and Melencio led the gold winners of the tournament. The other winners were: Latin American discipline—Richard Obong and Melessa Rayos (Grade A, 5 dance); Dino Meras and Suzette Camacho (Grade B, 4 dance); Sherwin Troy-Tesaluna and Jennylyn Manansala (Grade C, 3 dance and Grade D, 2 dance); Oliver Delgado and Malou Evabeth Boluhan (Grade E, 1 dance); Jefferson Pimentel and Marjorie Cabuenas (Juvenile); Bogie rondina-Marlan Manguba (Special event 2); and Jojit Cabuenas and Caroline Acuna (Special event 1 and senior division). Modern standard discipline—Rico Rosina and Faye Salvador (Grade A, 5 dance); Jeffrey and Mae Myla Ramiento (Grade B, 4 dance); Joel and Annabel Madera (Grade C, 3 dance and Grade D, 2 dance); Jonas Napoli and Lilian Somosot (Grade E, 1 dance); Inoue Roi Rendon and Christy Kim Velez (Juvenile); Romel Reyes and Juliet Genio (Special event 2); and Edward and Eleanor (Senior division).

PJGF slates Inter-School junior golf tilt

THE 16th Inter-School Junior Golf Championships will be held by the Philippine Junior Golf Federation on Sept. 7-9. The tournament will be played in three different golf courses within and outside Metro Manila. Competition is limited to grade school and high school divisions for both boys and girls. A luncheon meeting among school representatives is scheduled on July 29 at the Sports Lounge of the Cantada Sports Center in Taguig. Interested schools may call 8443143. PJGF head Edgardo "Boy" Cantada is not exacting any entry fee. Expected to participate in both team and individual competition are longtime participants Colegio San Agustin, Brent International School Manila, La Salle Greenhills, La Salle Zobel, University of St. La Salle Bacolod, Ateneo de Manila University and International School Manila.

Clara Golf Cup at Royal Tagaytay July 27

MORE than 100 club members and guests are expected to participate in the 2003 Clara International Golf Cup on July 27 at the Royal Tagaytay golf course. Tee-off is from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. The 18-hole event is sponsored by Clara International Skin and Beauty Center, Lipton Ice Tea, CICI General Insurance Corp. and Wave 89.1. For details, tune in to Wave 89.1 or call Leah Velasco/Mayette Aquino/Ogie Ordona/Grace Peji at tel. (046) 4132380-84.

Bagamasbad, Arellano active winners

NATIONAL Master Efren Bagamasbad topped the executive division while NU coach engineer Robert Arellano ruled the professional side of the July edition of the MCC Active Chess championships held over the weekend at Chowking-Remar Branch in Cubao, Quezon City. Despite losing to June titlist Jenny Mayor, Bagasmasbad finished with 7.5 points after 11 rounds to bag the executive title while Arellano, who beat Christopher Castellano, wound up with 11 points for a back-to-back title in the professional group. In the Age-Group division, winners were Kevin Baltazar (Under 18) and Jan Jodilyn Fronda (Under 12). Next MCC event at Chowking-Remar is a non-master tourney set on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For details, call 826-8560 and 0916-852-1069.

Boracay team chess championship

THE COUNTRY'S top players will compete in the 1st Boracay Team Chess Championship slated Aug. 1 to 3 at the Boracay Terraces Resort Hotel in Boracay Island, Aklan. The tournament, sanctioned by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, is a project of 7107 Islands Travellers' Club and the Active Chess Center of Asia Inc. For details, contact the ACCA at tel. 892-8759 and 892-0279 or 7107 Islands Travellers' Club at 723-0088 and 725-2277.

Kaya booters oust Pasargad, 3-0

WONDER-CLUB Kaya booted out Pasargad FC, 3-0, in the 1st Lupoy-GNC football cup last weekend. Kaya striker Peter Amores pounced on Pasargad's defensive lapse and headed the ball in from an Anton del Rosario cross to give his club the 'go-ahead' after 70 minutes. Down 0-1, Pasargad head coach Darius Irani made substitutions and instructed his boys to go for broke, but it went for naught. In the 80th minute, star striker Aly Borromeo sent out a ground hugging through-ball to Del Rosario who slotted Kaya's 2nd goal. Five minutes before the whistle, Kaya netted the final goal. In the other Group A match, Navy booked a 'championship' showdown with Kaya after beating El Magistrado, 4-1.

Ang Liga kicks off tonight at Philsports

'ANG LIGA,' a combination league of NCAA and UAAP college squads kicks off at 8 p.m. today with a match between the RP Under-23 National Team and the University of the Philippines at the Philsports football arena.

Other than the finest college footballers in Metro Manila, Ang Liga will also feature the best coaches like Aris Caslib (RP U-23), Bob Salvacion (RP U-20), Nonnoy Carpio (UST), Orlando Plageta (FEU), Ompong Merida (Ateneo), Ryan de la Cruz (San Beda), Kleng Cacacho (UP), Lloyd Lim (UE) and Casper Ngo (Mapua). Will the Nationals get the respect of their colleagues playing in assorted varsity teams? The answer will partly be known tonight.

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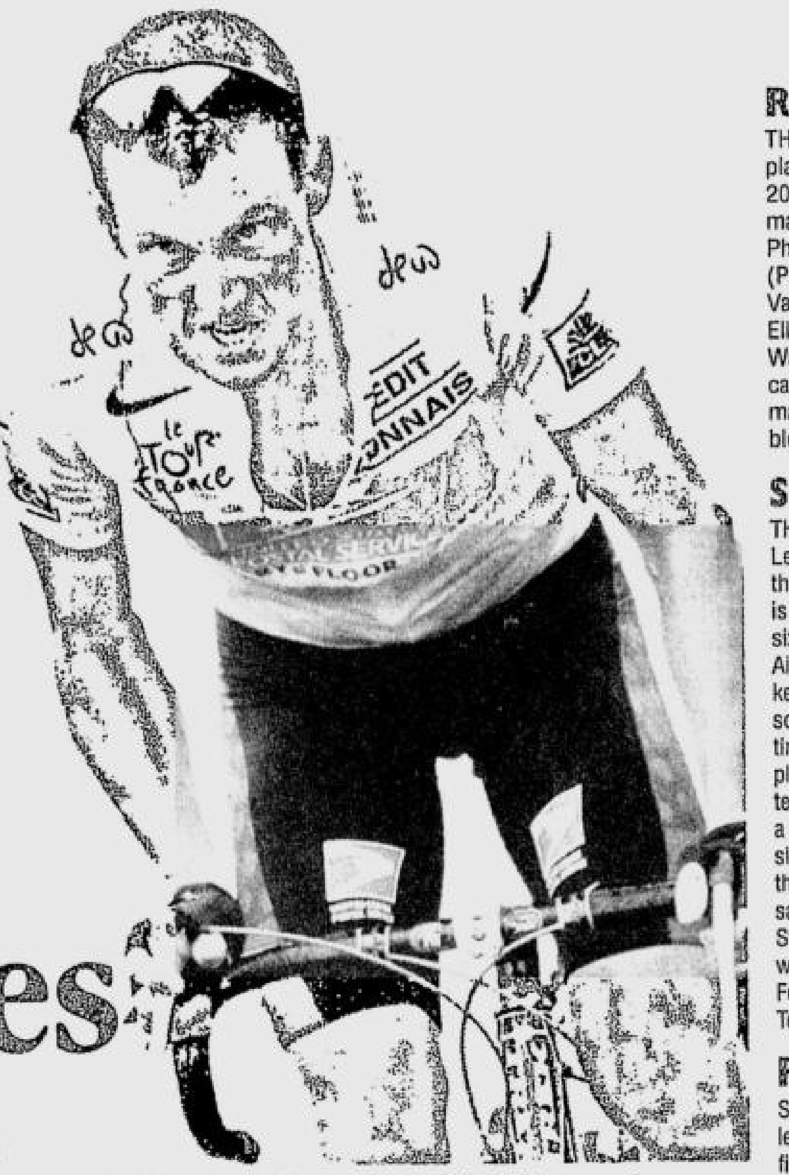

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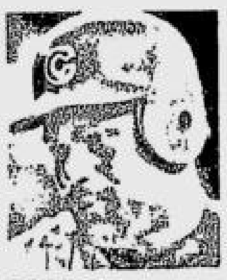

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SUBIC—Petron-SRA's Louie Ramirez won one of two races in the penultimate leg of the 2003 SVI-Petron Grand Prix at the Subic International Raceway. His first win in 12 races enabled Ramirez to tighten the race for runner-up honors going to the final two rounds in the 14-part series organized by Sports Values Inc. and sponsored by Blaze. Ramirez, one of four sons of race legend and SVI president Pocholo Ramirez now has a 12-round aggregate of 47 points based on the 10-6-4-3-2-1 scoring system. Three-time champion Jody Coseteng of Red Horse-San Miguel-Caltex finished only sixth in the morning race and second in the afternoon race but remained in the lead with a runaway score of 93 points. Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA managed two third-place finishes to keep second place with 53 points. A close third with 49 points is Mike Anton of Red Bull-Auto Options, who won the day's only other race.

Mercado-Melencio dance pair prevails

GARCIA

YOUNGSTERS Rener Mercado, 14, and Judith Anne Melencio, 12, won the Modern Standard and Latin American junior disciplines of the recent seventh Midyear Ranking and Alaxan FR Cup under the auspices of the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City. Cited recently by the Philippine Sportswriters Association and the DSCP headed by Becky Garcia, Mercado and Melencio led the gold winners of the tournament. The other winners were: Latin American discipline—Richard Obong and Melessa Rayos (Grade A, 5 dance); Dino Meras and Suzette Camacho (Grade B, 4 dance); Sherwin Troy-Tesaluna and Jennylyn Manansala (Grade C, 3 dance and Grade D, 2 dance); Oliver Delgado and Malou Evabeth Boluhan (Grade E, 1 dance); Jefferson Pimentel and Marjorie Cabuenas (Juvenile); Bogie rondina-Marlan Manguba (Special event 2); and Jojit Cabuenas and Caroline Acuna (Special event 1 and senior division). Modern standard discipline—Rico Rosina and Faye Salvador (Grade A, 5 dance); Jeffrey and Mae Myla Ramiento (Grade B, 4 dance); Joel and Annabel Madera (Grade C, 3 dance and Grade D, 2 dance); Jonas Napoli and Lilian Somosot (Grade E, 1 dance); Inoue Roi Rendon and Christy Kim Velez (Juvenile); Romel Reyes and Juliet Genio (Special event 2); and Edward and Eleanor (Senior division).

PJGF slates Inter-School junior golf tilt

THE 16th Inter-School Junior Golf Championships will be held by the Philippine Junior Golf Federation on Sept. 7-9. The tournament will be played in three different golf courses within and outside Metro Manila. Competition is limited to grade school and high school divisions for both boys and girls. A luncheon meeting among school representatives is scheduled on July 29 at the Sports Lounge of the Cantada Sports Center in Taguig. Interested schools may call 8443143. PJGF head Edgardo "Boy" Cantada is not exacting any entry fee. Expected to participate in both team and individual competition are longtime participants Colegio San Agustin, Brent International School Manila, La Salle Greenhills, La Salle Zobel, University of St. La Salle Bacolod, Ateneo de Manila University and International School Manila.

Clara Golf Cup at Royal Tagaytay July 27

MORE than 100 club members and guests are expected to participate in the 2003 Clara International Golf Cup on July 27 at the Royal Tagaytay golf course. Tee-off is from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. The 18-hole event is sponsored by Clara International Skin and Beauty Center, Lipton Ice Tea, CICI General Insurance Corp. and Wave 69.1. For details, tune in to Wave 89.1 or call Leah Velasco/Mayette Aquino/Ogie Ordona/Grace Peji at tel. (046) 4132380-84.

Bagamasbad, Arellano active winners

NATIONAL Master Efren Bagamasbad topped the executive division while NU coach engineer Robert Arellano ruled the professional side of the July edition of the MCC Active Chess championships held over the weekend at Chowking-Remar Branch in Cubao, Quezon City. Despite losing to June titlist Jenny Mayor, Bagasmasbad finished with 7.5 points after 11 rounds to bag the executive title while Arellano, who beat Christopher Castellano, wound up with 11 points for a back-to-back title in the professional group. In the Age-Group division, winners were Kevin Baltazar (Under 18) and Jan Jodilyn Fronda (Under 12). Next MCC event at Chowking-Remar is a non-master tourney set on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For details, call 826-8560 and 0916-852-1069.

Boracay team chess championship

THE COUNTRY'S top players will compete in the 1st Boracay Team Chess Championship slated Aug. 1 to 3 at the Boracay Terraces Resort Hotel in Boracay Island, Aklan. The tournament, sanctioned by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, is a project of 7107 Islands Travellers' Club and the Active Chess Center of Asia Inc. For details, contact the ACCA at tel. 892-8759 and 892-0279 or 7107 Islands Travellers' Club at 723-0088 and 725-2277.

Kaya booters oust Pasargad, 3-0

WONDER-CLUB Kaya booted out Pasargad FC, 3-0, in the 1st Lupoy-GNC football cup last weekend. Kaya striker Peter Amores pounced on Pasargad's defensive lapse and headed the ball in from an Anton del Rosario cross to give his club the 'go-ahead' after 70 minutes. Down 0-1, Pasargad head coach Darius Irani made substitutions and instructed his boys to go for broke, but it went for naught. In the 80th minute, star striker Aly Borromeo sent out a ground hugging through-ball to Del Rosario who slotted Kaya's 2nd goal. Five minutes before the whistle, Kaya netted the final goal. In the other Group A match, Navy booked a 'championship' showdown with Kaya after beating El Magistrado, 4-1.

Ang Liga kicks off tonight at Philsports

'ANG LIGA,' a combination league of NCAA and UAAP college squads kicks off at 8 p.m. today with a match between the RP Under-23 National Team and the University of the Philippines at the Philsports football arena.

Other than the finest college footballers in Metro Manila, Ang Liga will also feature the best coaches like Aris Caslib (RP U-23), Bob Salvacion (RP U-20), Nonnoy Carpio (UST), Orlando Plageta (FEU), Ompong Merida (Ateneo), Ryan de la Cruz (San Beda), Kleng Cacacho (UP), Lloyd Lim (UE) and Casper Ngo (Mapua). Will the Nationals get the respect of their colleagues playing in assorted varsity teams? The answer will partly be known tonight.

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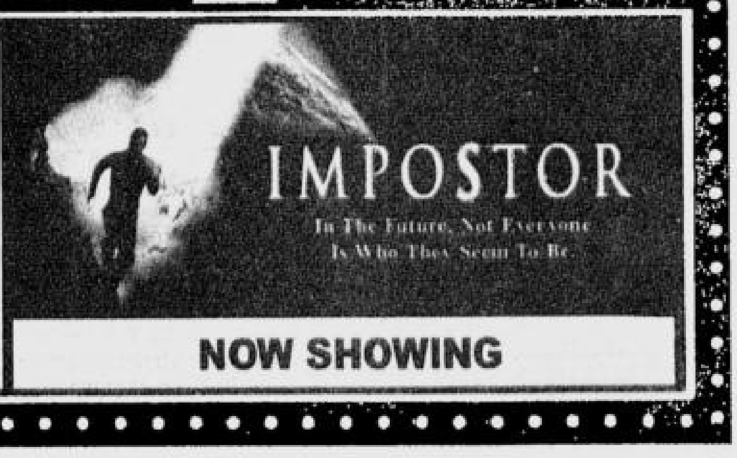

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Still keeping us CompanY after 18 years

By Frances Katigbak and Kathryn Fatima Reyes

TO SAY that music is the tie that binds the members of The CompanY is an understatement. After 18 years together, there has to be so much more than just music.

The group started out as an offshoot of the college glee club of Ateneo. After college, the original 12 members of the group suffered withdrawal symptoms because they missed singing. And so they decided to meet every Friday, to sing, according to Annie Quintos, soprano/alto and the group's accountant.

In June 1985, that Friday group became The CompanY, a name taken from a 1972 Stephen Sondheim musical.

Their professional career began with doing back-up vocals for Martin Nievera, Gary Valenciano, Kuh Ledesma, Louie Reyes, Nanette Inventor and Celeste Legaspi. The 12 dwindled to eight when some members who had day jobs felt the singing gigs were "getting out of hand."

The group had several replacements before ending up with the current six members. They tried to keep the eight members intact for as long as they could, but when two of them got married, the group had to settle for six.

Moy Ortiz and Annie are the only ones who have been with the group since the start. Baritone/tenor André Castillo joined the group in 1988, alto Cecile Bautista in 1990, baritone/tenor Reuben Laurente in 1991 and soprano Sweet Plantado in 1999.

André , the first non-Atenean member, is co-arranger and rehearsal pianist. Cecile, formerly a journalist, is the scriptwriter, lyricist and arranger. Reuben is liaison officer. Sweet, who also does theater work for CCP and the Trumpets, is assistant director, choreographer and fashion consultant.

Love songs

"When rock and alternative came in, we thought we would be obliterated," says Moy, the group's artistic director. "Then there was rap (popularized by) Andrew E. and Francis M. After that, bubblegum pop came back, which made us happy. It's cyclical."

Sweet says, *"Kahit ano'ng mauso, ang Pinoy bumabalik talaga sa love songs."*

With their songs "Muntik na Kitang Minahal," "Everlasting Love" and "Now That I Have You," The CompanY rose to become an important group. It has won Awit and Katha awards for best vocal arrangement, best composition and album of the year.

The CompanY performs in "The World of Music Special: The CompanY ... Live & A Cappella," to be held 6 p.m. on Friday, July 25, at The Podium, and on Aug. 1 at the Grand Atrium of the Shangri-la Plaza.

The shows, presented by Tissot Swiss Watches, Rado, The Podium and Shangri-la Plaza Mall, are part of a series launched by The World of Music (TWM), an international franchise that brings musical groups to public venues like malls.

The Manila Youth Symphony Orchestra, UP Chamber Orchestra, Metro Jazz Orchestra and Gary V himself have had concerts under the TWM banner.

Out of the box

For The CompanY, it would mean an opportunity to show the broad repertoire of their 12th and latest album, "The CompanY Live at the CCP."

That album is an audio and video documentation of the group's concert at the CCP main theater last June 25, 2002.

"When we think out of the box, when we try not to stereotype or pigeonhole the group, that's when they (TWM) get interested," says Moy. The album, he adds, "retraces, rediscovers the roots of the group in traditional choral and classical music."

More than being bound by career and music, the members of The CompanY are held together by friendship. Moy, Annie, André, Cecile Reuben and Sweet treat each other like family, one that will celebrate 20 years of music-making in 2005.

A really big and special anniversary concert at the CCP is in the works. "That has to be special," says Moy. "Not everyone can say that they've had a career for 20 years. It's very unusual that a vocal group can last this long.

"If God smiles on us and we go beyond 20 years, we would be very grateful indeed," adds Moy.

MUSIC and friendshi, keep The CompanY together

Sing along with the Viva Hot Babes

SHOW TIME

SING along with the Viva Hot Babes!

Following their successful Special Edition VCD earlier this year, the Viva Hot Babes are back with the Hot Babes Videoke from Viva Records. The Hot Babes Videoke comes in four volumes: OPM, current hits, pop standard and rap, with 10 songs per volume.

The video shows Hot Babes Maui Taylor, Katya Santos, Andrea del Rosario, Jen Rosendahl, Kristine Jaca, Gwen Garci, Myles Hernandez and Hazel Cabrera dancing on screen in sexy outfits—which, however, might make concentrating on your singing next to impossible.

The Viva Hot Babes Videoke Collection will be launched on Friday, July 25, 9:30 p.m., at Dish at Rockwell, Power Plant Mall, Makati City. Tickets to the launch are P400 each and are available at Dish.

Buyers of the complete, four-volume set will get a bonus VCD containing behind-the-scenes footages of the making of the Viva Hot Babes Videoke Collection.

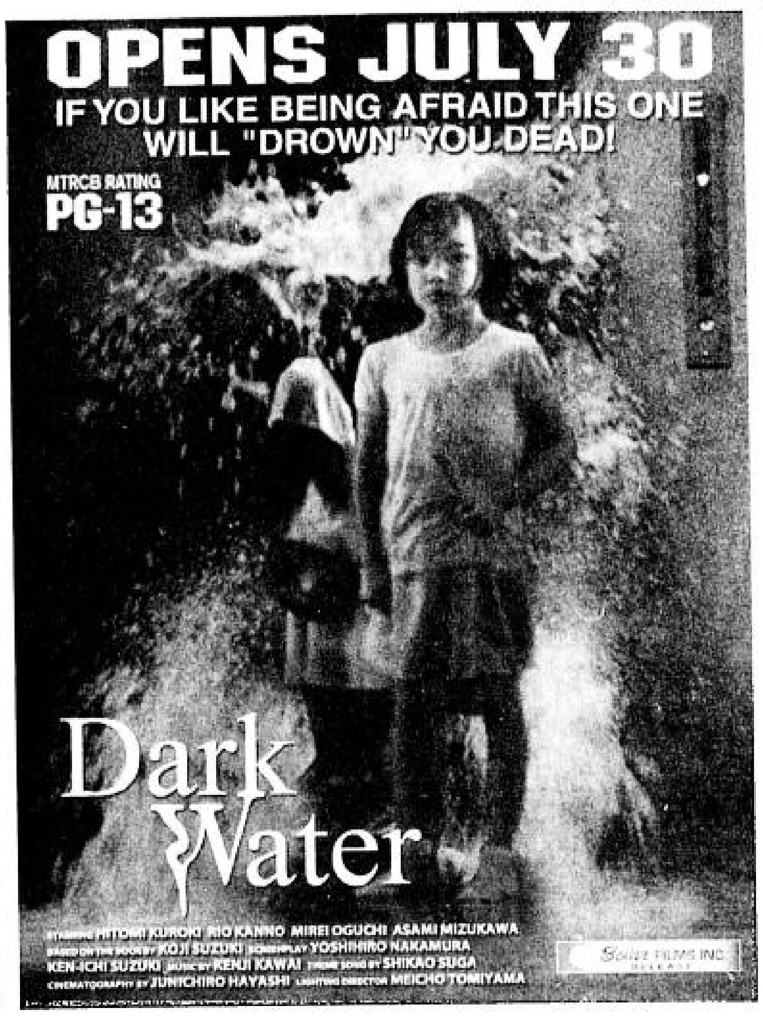
Cancer...

From page A32

and most of the people in the audience were surprised to see me still alive."

Joey is the singer of such hits as "Tell Me," "Minsan Pa," "I Remember the Boy," "Iisa pa Lamang," "Points of View" (with Pops Fernandez), and others.

Her former boyfriend, composer Louie Ocampo, wrote many of her songs.



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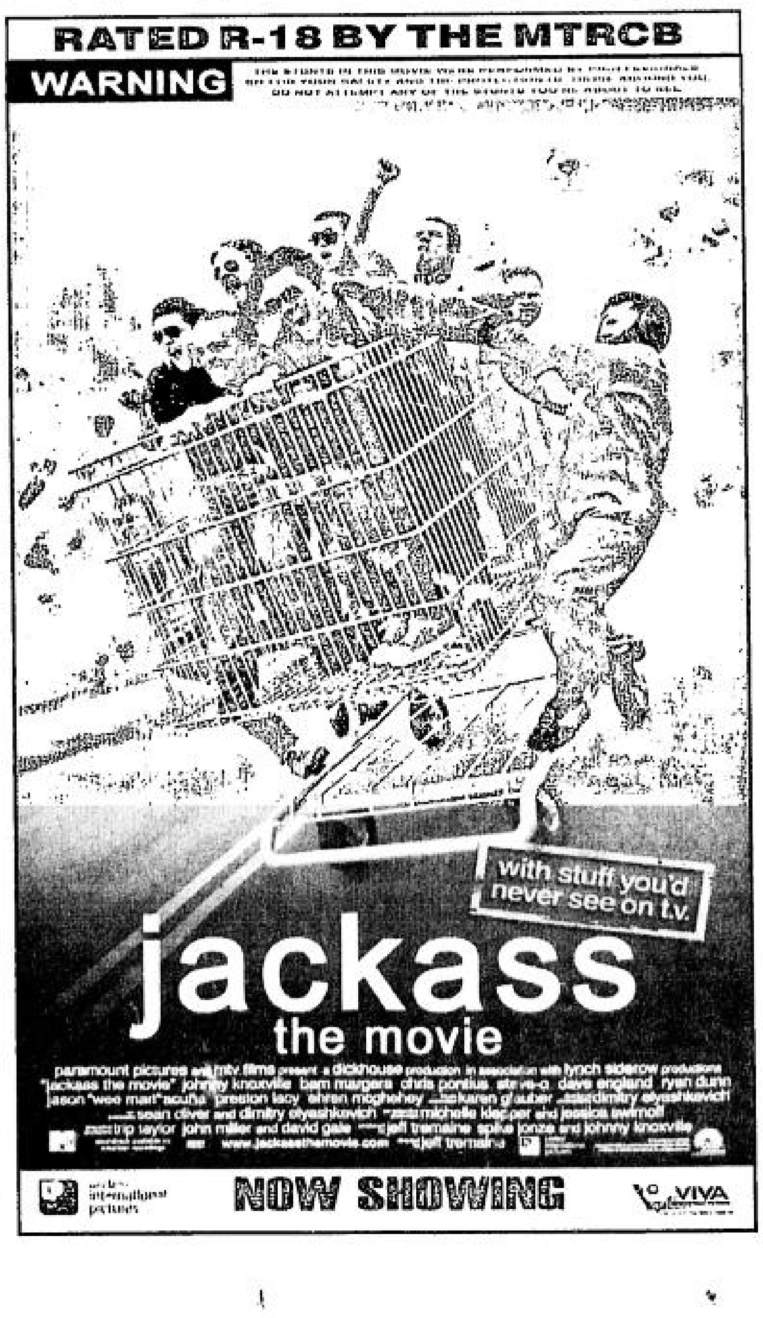

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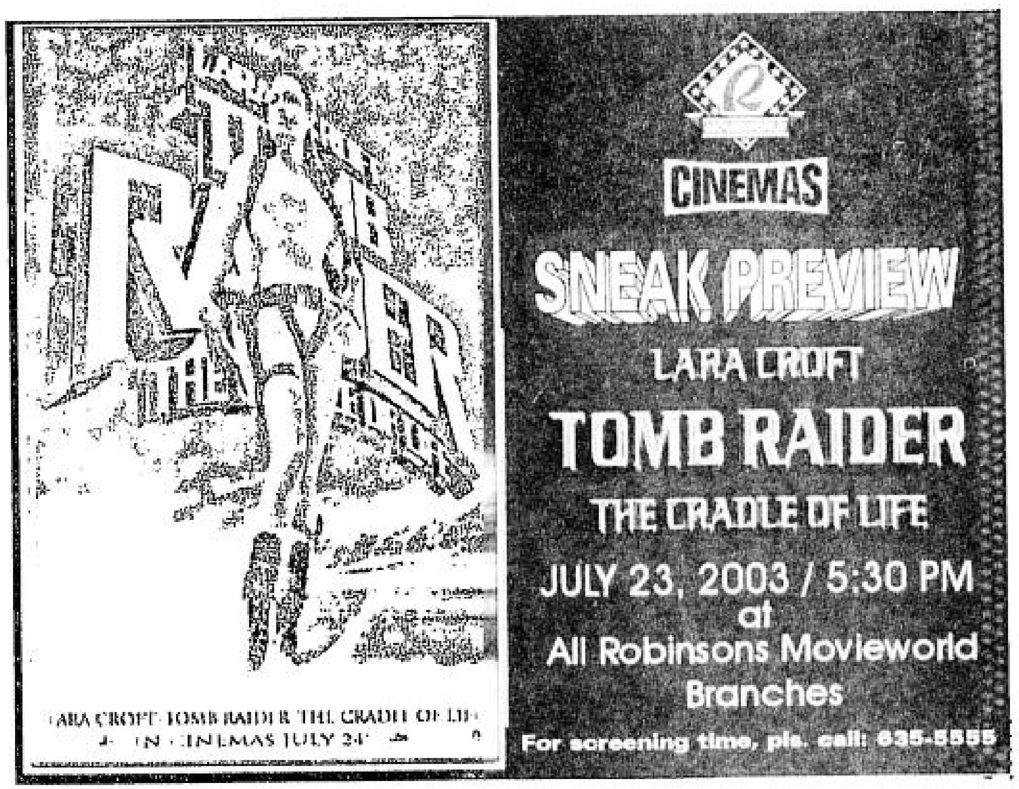

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Miranda was screened at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival.
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Some TV news anchors found wanting

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHY are some anchors of TV newscasts and hosts of public affairs shows being built up as stars?

It's time for clueless viewers to realize that some of the TV news people they admire actually do little of the work that's attributed to them.

Some viewers simply believe that, because newscasters deliver the news on TV, they are also responsible for covering and writing it. They have to be told that this is usually not the case.

The newscaster is generally chosen for the "credible" way he looks and sounds, not mainly for his news gathering or news writing skills.

All too often, some newscasters show up at the studio shortly before the newscast, and merely read the text provided by other members of the program's news team.

Once in a while, the anchor will interview a newsmaker live on the show, and this is when he really has to work. His competence in this instance is established by the questions he asks, how he follows up on what the interviewee says, and how he gets at the truth despite the newsmaker's attempts to fudge it.

Sometimes, the news anchor fumbles, and this is when we tell ourselves that his true worth is really different from his on-screen image.

And yet, it is these deficient news people who are sometimes admired by gullible televiewers. This is because these clueless viewers believe that the totality of a news program is mainly attributable to its anchor.

Once they disabuse themselves of this incorrect notion, they can realize that the anchor is often just the verbalizer of somebody else's work, so he shouldn't be thought of as necessarily brilliant, committed, a defender of the public, a whistleblower against corruption, etc.

Which is not to say that he isn't important to the newscast. He gives it specific personality and style, and something for viewers to relate to, empathize with and trust.

That's important—but it isn't everything. And it certainly isn't a 100-percent assurance that a good news anchorperson will necessarily make a good public servant or legislator. Those are different things entirely.

So, don't vote a TV news anchor into office just because he looks good and comes across as helpful, intelligent and committed on TV.

What you see is sometimes not what you get.

So, let's not regard news anchors as stars. Stardom is for entertainers, and the news is supposed to inform and enlighten, not provide diversion.

The "star" on a TV newscast is the news itself, period. To think otherwise is naive and even delusional.

To be fair, there are news anchors who are eminently qualified and hardworking broadcast journalists, and who focus on their work and not on their looks, voices or self-importance.

But they tend to be upstaged by the flashier, more "dramatic" or show biz-y sort.

The thing is for us viewers to become more discriminating, so we can separate the slick pretenders from the genuine professionals.

AXN contests

THIS season, the AXN action channel raises the bars of interactivity even higher with the three contests and voting polls that will not only test viewers' predictive powers but will also give them a chance to decide what they want to see on the channel.

"The Amazing Race" asks viewers to vote for their favorite and most disliked teams, to predict the teams that will be eliminated, and which team will win the US$ 1-million grand prize.

The Anime On-Demand online voting gives anime fans the power to determine which movies AXN will telecast during the month-long on-air and online "Salute to Anime" Japanese animation extravaganza next month. Until July 27, viewers must log on to www.axn-asia.com and vote for the top three anime movies they'd like to see alongside Metropolis every Thursday, 10 p.m., from Aug. 7 to 28, and during the eight-hour OAV titles from the Darker Descendant collection.

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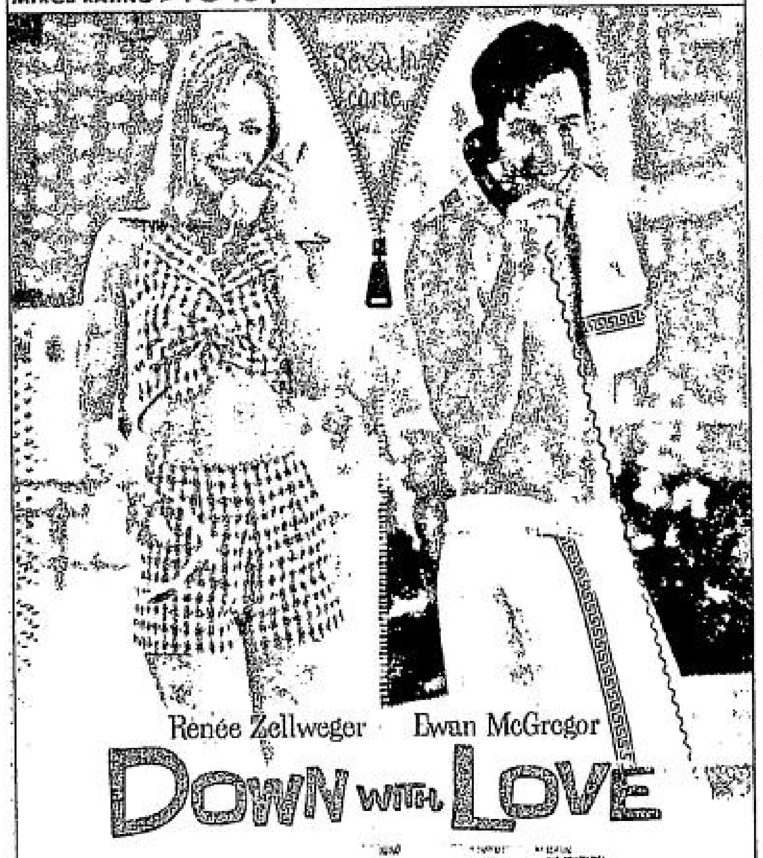

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Glorietta 4 Cinema 3 (THX/GSC) - 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
Glorietta 4 Cinema 6 - 6:00, 8:30, 11:00
Greenbelt 1 Cinema 2 - 6:00, 8:15
Greenbelt 3 Cinema 1 (THX/GSC) - 5:25, 7:50, 10:15
Greenbelt 3 Cinema 2 (THX/GSC) - 6:00, 8:25, 10:50
Greenbelt 3 Cinema 5 - 6:35, 9:00, 11:25
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LARA CROFT-TOMB RAIDER-THE CRADLE OF LIFE

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
Ali 2	MASAMANG UGAT
Ali 3	TERMINATOR 3
Ali 4	TOMB RAIDER 2
Ali 5	TOMB RAIDER 2
Ali 6	BANGKOK HANUTED
Ali 7	DEATH WATCH
ARANETA COLISEUM	
JULY 24	UAAP GAMES
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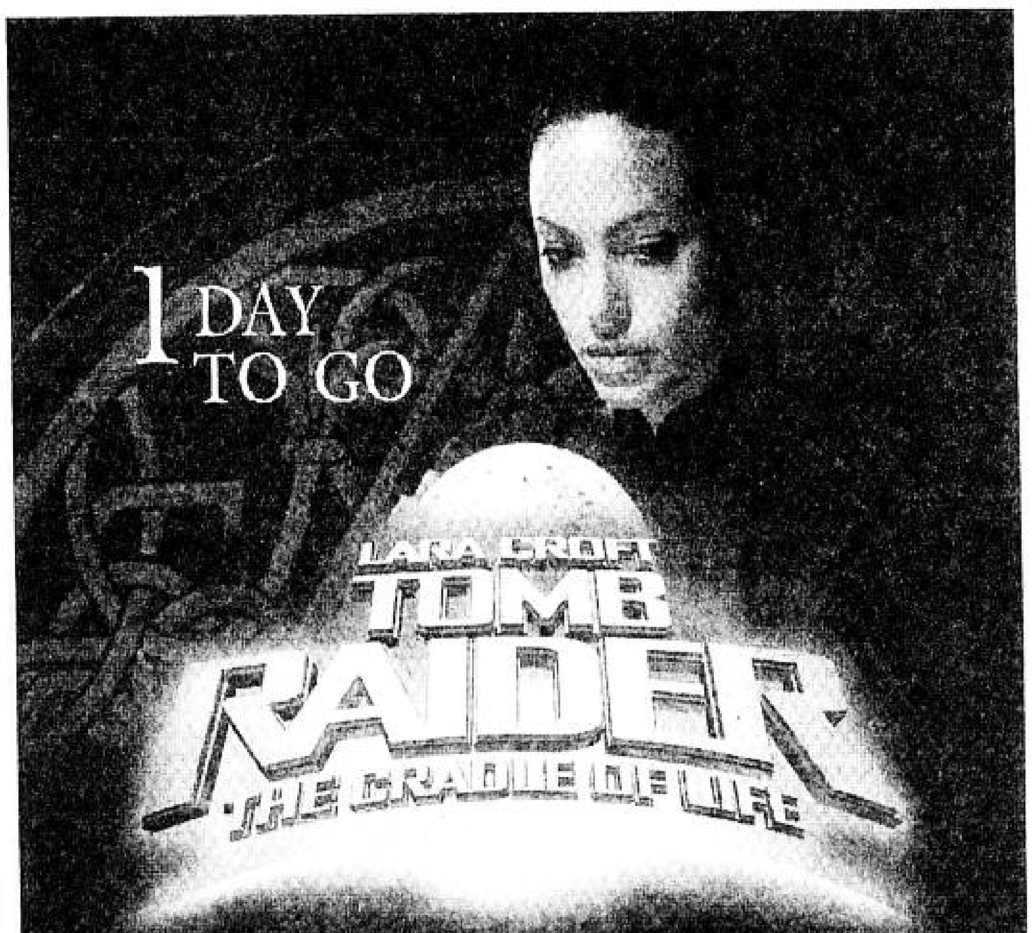

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GLORIETTA 4
Cinema 1 – 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
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Cinema 2 – 11:20, 1:45, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00
GREENBELT 3
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Cinema 2 (THX / GSC) – 1:10, 3:35, 6:00, 8:25, 10:50
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ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SABIK SA PAGIBIG
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TERMINATOR 3
B	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	IMPOSTOR
CINEMA-2	JACKASS
CINEMA-3	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
CINEMA-6	WILD BUTTERFLY
CINEMA-7	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA-8	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-12	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
CINEMA-14	DOWN WITH LOVE
CINEMA-15	BANGKOK HAUNTED
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
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LARA CROFT-TOMB RAIDER-THE CRADLE OF LIFE
IN CINEMAS JULY 24

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Editor Louie C. Camino

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UPTREND

Cancer diagnosis came as Joey Albert was set to come home

By Marinel R. Cruz

CANADA-BASED singer Joey Albert, who had survived cervical cancer, was supposed to come to Manila in August with her husband and their two children for a holiday and to perform in a series of shows, until doctors found out she has colon cancer.

"I was told the operation has to be done right away," said a niece of the singer, who asked not to be identified. "The vacation will have to wait."

Joey's niece said the disease was diagnosed only last Saturday.

"We are still waiting for the schedule of her operation," the niece added.

The singer has been living in Canada for almost seven years now with her husband, Ting Pacis, and their two daughters. In 1997, she had hysterectomy after she was diagnosed to have cervical cancer.

"The cancer was diagnosed early and was treated immediately," the niece said. "Her doctors said then that she did not need to undergo chemotherapy."

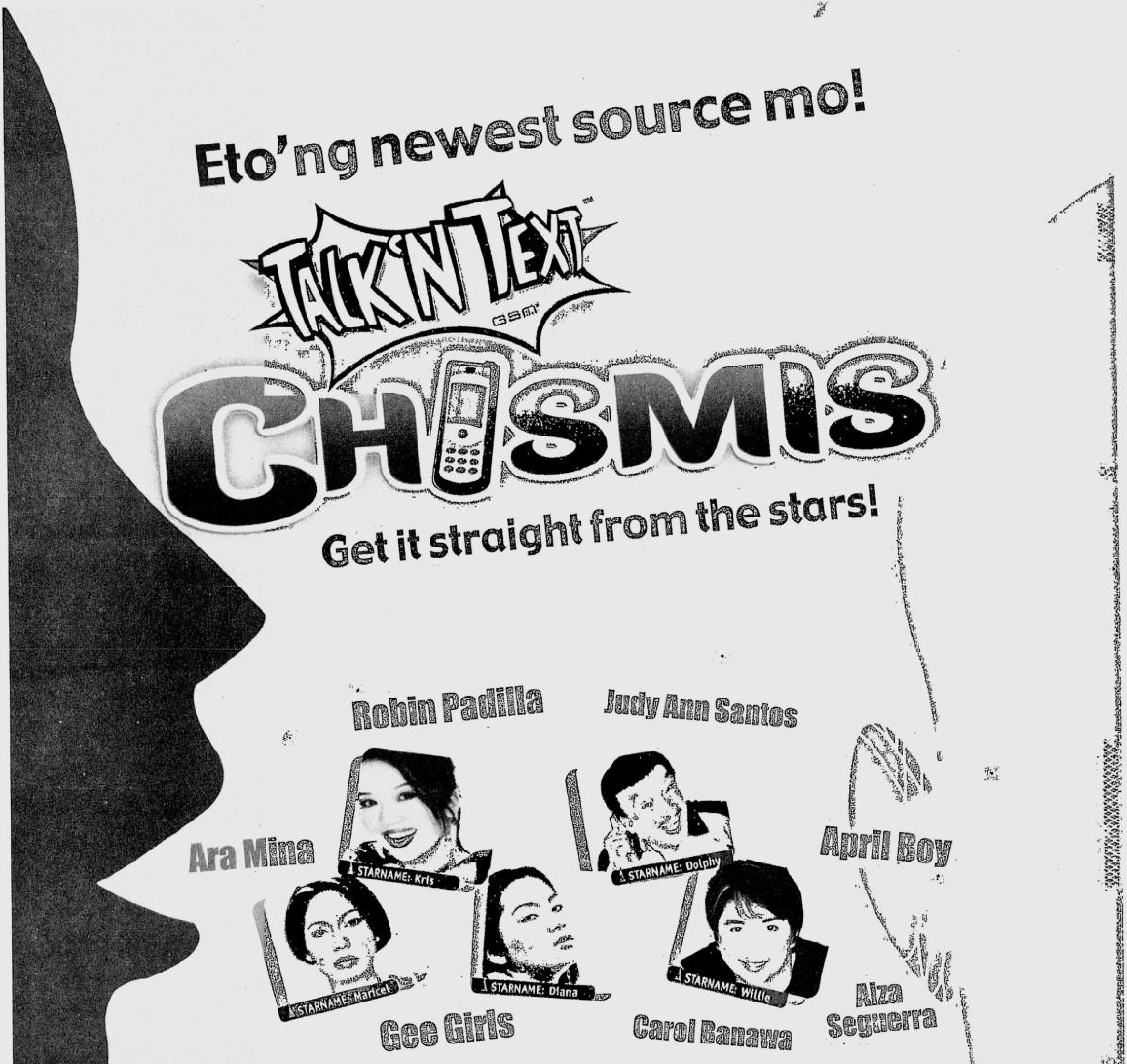
Two years ago, rumor spread that Joey had died of cancer. The singer came home to Manila to prove that she was very much alive.

"Just because two of my cousins died of cancer, some people around 'killed' me even if I am still alive," Joey had told the INQUIRER in a 2000 interview. "I went to LA for a concert

CANCER/ A30

FDI PHOTO

ALBERT in 2000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PNB turns around, nets ₱91M in 1st half

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE National Bank, the country's fourth biggest lender, posteda net profit of P91 million in the first half of the year, a sharp turnaround from the P1.4-billion net loss recorded a year ago.

PNB, which is aiming to be back in the black this year after five straight years of financial hemorrhage, attributed the turnaround to the expansion in the bank's interest and fee-based income as complemented by reduction in expenses.

The first-semester performance was ahead of PNB's own best-case scenario for the full year, when it aims to generate P100 million in net profit against the P1.95-billion loss in 2002.

Interest income for the first six months reached P3.6 billion, which was 12.6-percent or P405 million better than in the same period last year, the bank said in a statement.

Interest income on trading and investment securities contributed 61 percent or P247 million of the total growth in interest income. Fee-based income likewise posted substantial gains amounting to P2.55 billion or 34 percent higher than a year ago, fueled by service charges , fees and commissions as well as foreign exchange earnings, which surged by 52.8 percent and 42.4 percent from the same period last year.

On the expenditure side, PNB was able to contain the growth in spending to P2.85 billion or 19.2 percent lower than in the same period last year despite the 8.1-percent expansion in deposit base to P11.16 billion. This was due to the ongoing shift in the deposit mix to favor low-cost funds, which now corner 45-percent of total deposits compared to 42.7 percent a year ago.

The bank's plan is to bring up the ratio of low-cost funds to 60 percent by 2005.

"With higher interest income being complemented by lower interest expense, PNB was able to positively reverse its net interest margin to P761 million, a significant 337.8-percent or P1.08-billion improvement from the 2002 net interest margin figure of minus P320 million," the bank said.

With the bank's P91-million in net income for the first six months, total resources expanded by 6.8-percent to P198.08 billion over the same period last year.

"PNB's strong and steady performance in terms of profitability during the first six months of 2003 has enabled the new management of the bank to accelerate the implementation of its marketing initiatives supported by a more dynamic and aggressive corps of officers and staff," the bank said.

The bank said it would revitalize its sales and service organization in order to deliver a "dramatic" contribution in the coming months as new products and services catering to the middle- and high-end markets would be unveiled.

The bulk of PNB's revenues this year, or about 40 percent, is seen to come from fee-based income. Treasury operations are expected to pump in 35 percent while the remaining 25 percent will come from earnings from holdings of government securities.

This year, the bank also hopes to raise at least P1 billion from the sale of P3.5 billion (based on marking-to-market) worth of ropoa this year.

Last year, the bank posted P800 million in gross profits from the sale of P1.9 billion worth of ropoa.

INDICATORS

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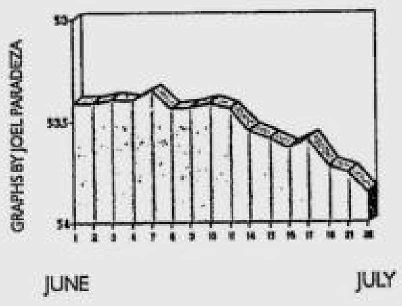


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

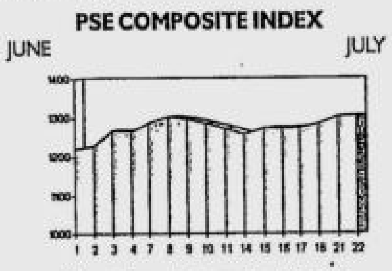
₱53.85 = $1
As of 5 p.m., July 22, 2003

¥119.20 = $1
As of 5 p.m., July 22, 2003

GOLD: $352.00-352.50
per ounce Hong Kong, July 22, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Shares close slightly higher



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices closed 0.05 percent higher yesterday to hold just above the key 1,300 points level as the market consolidated after gains Monday, dealers said.

They said investors chose to stay on the sidelines given current relatively high prices, with sentiment further weighed down by Wall Street's losses overnight.

The composite index closed up 0.61 points at 1,301.48, having traded between 1,295.96 and 1,308.77.

Gainers outnumbered losers 45 to 26, with 41 stocks unchanged.

Turnover was 582.76 million shares worth P572.61 million compared to 807.76 million shares worth P371.38 million on Monday.

The all-shares index was up 2.82 points at 751.56, with the commercial-industrial index down 5.85 to 1,853.20, while property was up 6.82 at 584.93.

Mining was up 5.60 at 1,088.42 and oil up 0.01 at 1.35, while banking and financial services gained 2.44 at 462.49.

"The market is undergoing a consolidation. The low volume and value turnover suggest investors have a wait-and-see attitude," said James Lago of Westlink Global Equities.

Citiseconline.com analyst Mark Alan Canizares said share prices have reached overbought levels, prompting investors to trade more cautiously.

"People are realizing that the market is currently overbought ... Investors are watching for corporate data here and abroad to justify current prices," Canizares added. *AFP*

DOTC says MRT-4 to push through

By Abigail L. Ho

DESPITE earlier snags, the Department of Transportation and Communications said the 22.6-kilometer Mass Rail Transit Line 4 (MRT 4) would still push through and was just undergoing "re-evaluation" at this time.

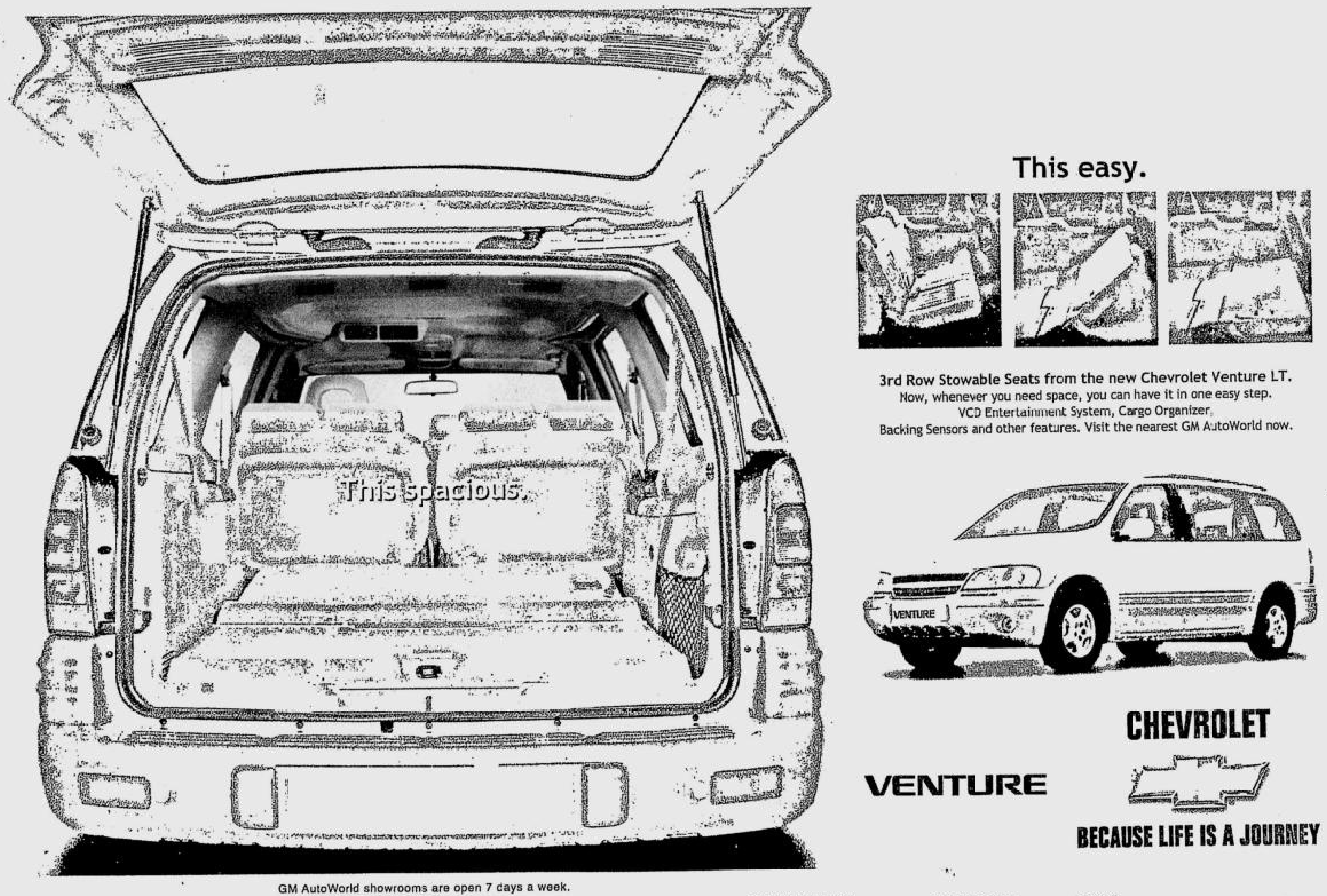
Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said in a statement yesterday that the government was now thoroughly looking at the specifications of the railway system that would run from the Old Bilibid Prison in Manila to Novaliches in Quezon City.

The first phase of the project would span 15.1 kilometers and would run from the Old Bilibid Prison to Batasan in Quezon City. The second phase would span 7.5 kilometers and would run from Batasan to Quirino Highway in Novaliches.

DOTC/B2

FIRST Pacific managing director Manuel V. Pangilinan shares a light moment with Rotary Club of Makati president Rene Benitez before delivering a speech on the Hong Kong-based conglomerate's strategy in the region. *(See story on page B2.)*

RUDY ESPERAS



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Bangko Sentral sees BOP surplus of $1.02B in '04

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is expecting a surplus next year of $1.2 billion in the balance-of-payments (BOP) position and $2 billion in the current account on expectations of improved dollar inflow from trade, investments and borrowings.

Dollar reserves in 2004 should also improve to $16 billion from the expected range of $14-$15 billion in 2003, according to a central bank official.

The preliminary BOP surplus forecast for 2004 is a reversal of this year's BSP expectation that the external payments position would register a deficit of $1.13 billion.

A central bank official cautioned, however, that the projections for next year were "very preliminary" and could still change depending on the government's borrowing strategy for 2004.

The official pointed out that next year's current account surplus could slide from this year's $2.356-billion forecast at the back of stronger imports in 2004.

Imports are expected to grow 11 percent while exports should improve by 10 percent next year against this year's forecast of 6-percent and 5-percent growth, respectively.

"Our current account projection will continue to be in a surplus, although lower because of higher imports, in step with higher economic activities," the official said.

Reflecting movements in the country's trade, the current account covers trade in goods and services, net rent, interest, profits and dividends, which reflect past capital flows that tend to generate income in the future. It also includes transfers such as overseas workers' remittances.

The BOP indicates the country's ability to settle its obligations and is influenced by the current account and the capital and financial account that mirrors the flow of investment and borrowings.

These closely watched indicators track the flow of foreign exchange and influence the psychology of the financial market particularly in relation to the peso-dollar exchange rate.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the government might source the bulk of its estimated P165 billion in financing requirements from the local market given the continued decline in interest rates.

The source said the borrowing mix of the national government would have a strong influence on the external payments numbers.

From a 60-40 mix this year in favor of the local market, Edeza said the ratio favoring domestic borrowings could increase to 80-20.

But relying on domestic funds to pay for dollar-denominated obligations would drain the country's dollar reserves that stood at $15.867 billion as of end-June.

Given the country's precarious level of dollar reserves this year, the central bank wants the government to borrow in dollars rather than in pesos.

The national government still needed to borrow $400 million for this year's requirements and plans to pre-fund some $500 million in offshore funding next year had been floated in the market.

"The government must be opportunistic because next year is an election year and the conditions may be different," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura. Uncertainties caused by election jitters could drive the cost of the government's borrowing higher next year.

In 2004, the government said it would need to borrow a net amount of P165.15 billion to finance an estimated deficit of P197.8 billion. Next year's load is lower than the P200 billion this year.

A weak level of foreign exchange reserves tends to encourage speculation against the local currency and could bring the value of the peso down, a situation that the government could not afford to happen especially toward the elections.

"If the GIR weakens, then the peso could be under attack. And when that happens, it is the government that would suffer especially when indications point to the likelihood that President Macapagal-Arroyo would seek another term," said another official.

But foreign borrowings would have to consider the country's growing external debt that stood at $55.8 billion as of the first quarter, up 4.5 percent or $2.4 billion from $53.4 billion in the same period of 2002.

Positioning The Firm

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

VILLARAZA and Angangco, arguably the country's best connected law firm, appears to be divided as to who it shall support for the presidency ever since its chief client, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, renounced any 2004 ambition.

According to the grapevine, the majority of the associates and junior partners have followed former name partner, now Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz, and hitch their fortune to the Raul Roco bandwagon.

Contrary to his denial, Cruz was actually present when fellow liars, oops, lawyers, launched the L4R, Lawyers for Roco, movement. Cruz's presence was inadvertently made known to the media, according to the grapevine, after someone signed Cruz's name on his behalf.

The disclosure naturally caused discomfiture in Malacañang—imagine, the chief GMA lawyer publicly supporting a candidate taking swipes at GMA. Cruz therefore had to issue posthaste a denial.

Back at The Firm, managing partner and chief whip F. Arthur Villaraza has made it known to his partners and associates that, as in 1992, he would support San Miguel chair Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. for the presidency in the event that GMA makes good her pledge not to run.

Despite San Miguel president Ramon Ang's opinion of him and The Firm, Villaraza claims he is still on very good terms with Danding.

And his personal preference notwithstanding, Villaraza has also made it known that The Firm's lawyers are free to campaign for their respective "presidential aspirants," a strategy that the law firm has pursued and that has served them well during the Aquino, Ramos and GMA years.

Going loco over Roco

FEARING that the GMA or Danding camps would recruit him, columnist Nelson Navarro called us to say that he only had two stories, not "loads of stories" as was reported here Monday, about Raul Roco.

Those two "lethal" stories (adjective supplied by Navarro friend, political analyst Antonio Gatmaitan) relate to Roco's unexpected switch during the Marcosian crunch at the 1971 Constitutional Convention, where Roco was then a delegate, and a disappearing act committed against his erstwhile colleagues, martial law exiles Heherson Alvarez and Ninoy Aquino, while Roco was visiting New York.

Even within the corporate philanthropy circles, there are a number of Raul Roco horror stories being swapped, according to Knowledge Channel resource mobilization manager, Doris Nuval, who herself has a story to tell.

Nuval said Roco, who was then education secretary, snapped at her and ordered her out of a conference room while Nuval was in the midst of a Power-point presentation discussing Knowledge Channel's possible tie-up with the education department's distance-learning program.

Nuval was not asking for money from the Department of Education, so she could not understand why Roco, whom she privately briefed before the Power-point presentation, would raise his famous temper in front of the senior DEC officer corps.

Looking back now, what apparently got Roco's goat, according to Nuval, was her having fumbled on an answer to a question raised by Roco about Knowledge Channel allegedly encroaching on the DEC turf.

Lay-off or lay down

IT used to be that hitting on new attractive female recruits/interns was considered a newsroom sport.

Not anymore.

Even in this broadcast outfit that has the reputation of a Peyton Place, the female newsroom staff (eight, according to the grapevine) have made known their revulsion at how their male editor made sexual innuendos and even outright passes at them.

The boss's wife, who also works in the same newsroom, has taken the lead to make amends for his overactive husband, talking to each aggrieved staffer to forgive and forget, lest the tempest erupt into a full-blown scandal and damage the carefully crafted reputation of the station.

People in the news

- HE was supposed to have voluntarily resigned as president of the Opus Dei-investment house, Corporate Investments Philippines Inc., when it was already foundering, but now investment banker Vicente Atilano has filed an illegal dismissal suit with the National Labor Relations Commission and is asking for a P7-million retirement package.
- A HOMEGROWN Unilever talent, Rhodora Palomar-Fresnedi, now walks in the corridors of power of the Dutch-Anglo combine as vice president for global diversity. Fresnedi was mentioned in a Financial Times article last month on how she helps Unilever co-chair Niall Fitzgerald break the glass ceiling for women executives of the consumer goods multinational.

Heard through the grapevine

MADAME Auring has already divined the identity of the next Philippine president, and his/her name begins with the letter "P"—Panday, Pandak, Pikon, Ping or Pacman.

(Cocktales may be reached at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

TELECOMMUNICATION

First Pacific pursues regional expansion

By Abigail L. Ho

HONG Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd. is holding exploratory talks with other telecom firms in the region in line with its regional telecommunications strategy.

First Pacific is poised to pursue a two-pronged food and telecommunications strategy hinged on Indofood Sukses Makmur Tbk and dominant carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

The strategy aims to expand the reach of the two firms to cover not only their respective countries of origin but the whole region as well.

According to First Pacific's telecom strategy, PLDT would eventually expand outside of the Philippines.

While PLDT had no plans yet of going overseas, First Pacific managing director Manuel Pangilinan said the Hong Kong-based conglomerate was looking at other players in the region to complete its regional telecom strategy.

He said that First Pacific had seen opportunities to become a dominant regional player in the telecom business and this could be achieved through PLDT and other carriers as well.

In a speech before the Rotary Club of Makati, he said he was in Hong Kong Monday to hold preliminary discussions with a telecommunications firm that he declined to name.

"I think there was an opportunity. In fact, when I was in Hong Kong yesterday, it was because of a particular regional opportunity that looks very, very interesting," he said.

He stressed, however, that talks with that particular firm were still of an "exploratory" nature at this time.

While he declined to name which company First Pacific was in discussions with, he said this firm was offering the "latest technology" in the market, "but not 3G because that's difficult (to undertake)."

As far as PLDT was concerned, Pangilinan, who also sits as president and chief executive of the dominant carrier, said it would just be on "deleveraging" as it still had about $115 million in debts to repay this year and another $416 million in 2004.

He said it would be "a pity for a company like PLDT and a country like the Philippines, which is way ahead in terms of the products and services, not to export or invest in other cellular activities (in the region)."

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Gov't to fast-track ₱24B worth of energy projects

By Ronnel W. Domingo

STATE-RUN National Transmission Corp. (Transco) said it would fast-track projects totalling some $450 million (about P24 billion) in the Visayas to help stabilize power supply in the region where a shortage is expected to set in as early as December.

Transco president Alan T. Ortiz said in a statement the projects included the $48-million Cebu-Mactan transmission line project, the $48-million uprating of the Negros-Panay line, and the $47-million Negros-Cebu interconnection project.

Ortiz added that the company was also calling for the earlier implementation of the $354-million interconnection of Leyte and Mindanao, which was slated for implementation in 2011.

The connection of Leyte and Mindanao would make the country's island grids into an integrated electricity network.

Ortiz made the announcement as Transco, along with officials of the Department of Energy and the state-owned National Power Corp., embarked on a series of consultations with affected parties in Negros and Cebu.

The campaign aims to find solutions to the looming shortage of electricity supply in the region seen to be evident late this year.

"Transco is working double time to finish the vital transmission projects in the region even earlier than the committed schedules," Ortiz said.

DOE records showed that, within the next two years, an additional 1,615 megawatts of generating capacity would be needed in Luzon, 240 MW in the Visayas and 256 MW in Mindanao.

The agency said a power shortage could start as early as December this year on Panay Island, where demand is expected to go up to 220 MW by 2005 compared to the available capacity of 138 MW.

Meantime, Transco is set to conduct an electronic auction for the $68.5-million turnkey contract for the Leyte-Cebu interconnection project on July 30.

The project, scheduled for completion by December 2004, aims to increase the capacity to transmit electricity from geothermal energy-rich Leyte to the power-hungry Cebu-Negros-Panay grid.

DOTC . . .

From page B1

While the Department of Justice had earlier issued an opinion that brought the project back to square one, Mendoza said the DOTC has asked the project proponent, a French consortium, to address various issues that could deter the project's implementation.

The DOJ opinion stated that the French consortium, Bouygues-Javlon International (Phil.) Inc.-SOFRETU, had lost its "original proponent status" with the lapse of the 18-month validity period.

Mendoza also related that the DOTC Technical Working Group saw some deficiencies in the consortium's technical and financial proposal.

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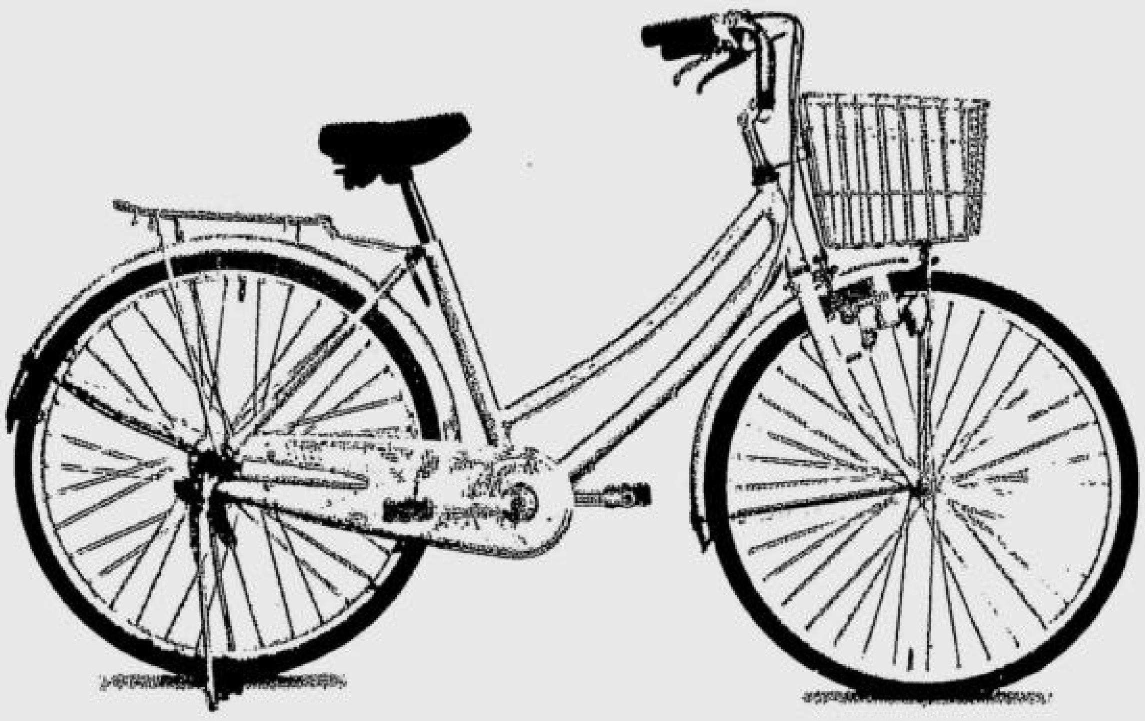

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DSL INTERNET

5-yr treasury bond rate declining

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MARKET'S appetite for local bonds remained robust, pulling the 5-year treasury bond rate down in yesterday's auction to 9.875 percent against 10.375 percent weeks ago when the government sold retail bonds.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the liquidity in the fixed-income market had returned. The government was able to sell P74.3 billion worth of three- and five-year bonds early this month.

Tenders for the five-month bonds reached P6.78 billion yesterday while the government's offering was only P3 billion.

"The liquidity has returned to the market after our RTB offering. The full effect of the central bank rate cut early this month is already being felt," said the treasurer.

Also helping keep market liquidity is the modest inflation rate, which averaged at 3 percent this year as against the government's target of 4.5 to 5.5 percent, said Edeza.

Edeza, however, said that despite the continued drop in the five-year bond's rate, the level remained relatively high.

"If you compound the 91-day rate, the five-year rate should be below 9 percent. We should expect interest rates to stay soft for as long as government expenditures are controlled," said the treasurer.

Controlled spending and improving revenue collection kept the government's budget deficit way below the ceiling as of the first half. The fiscal gap in the first semester stood at P79.4 billion against a ceiling of P102.2 billion for the period.

Edeza said the cost of the government's borrowings would remain low for the rest of the year and possibly until next year when the 91-day benchmark rate was expected to average at 7.5 percent against an earlier projection of 9 percent.

The 91-day T-bill rate, used by banks in pricing loans, fell to 5.168 percent last Monday.

"I don't expect volatility in the market. The interest rate paid to rollover our debt is now lower," said the treasurer.

La Suerte strengthens foothold in market

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PHILIP Morris Co., the world's largest tobacco company, is feeling the heat of the aggressive moves of its erstwhile partner La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Co. to maintain a foothold in the local cigarette market.

La Suerte, the local maker and distributor of Philip Morris and Marlboro cigarettes from 1955 to 2002, saw the sales of its Memphis (sold mainly in Luzon) and Astro (sold in Visayas and Mindanao) brands skyrocket from 6.809 million packs in its maiden year in 1999 to 357.79 million packs in 2002.

Philip Morris, which parted acrimoniously with La Suerte in December, has seen its sales drop from 952,666 packs in 1999 to less than 880,000 packs in 2002. All figures came from the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

An industry source said the trend of rising La Suerte sales and shrinking Philip Morris volume was sustained in the first half this year as the Filipino cigarette maker stepped up its marketing program.

A source from Philip Morris said that it could not confirm how sales have performed in the first half this year although it acknowledged that La Suerte had been performing remarkably in terms of volume. The source said the two were not direct competitors since Astro and Memphis were geared toward the low-end market while their brands catered mostly to the upscale smokers.

The source said that a major factor that had contributed to La Suerte's strong sales was its low tax rate which gives the firm more flexibility in pricing its products. The Bureau of Internal Revenue had earlier issued Revenue Regulation No. 9-2003 which would update the net retail price of new cigarette and alcohol brands introduced after 1997 when the Comprehensive Tax Reform Package was implemented.

BIR officials estimated that the government had foregone nearly P3 billion in revenues over the last four years from the agency's failure to conduct a mandatory survey and reclassify new brands such as La Suerte's Astro and Memphis and British American Tobacco's Lucky Strike. Once the government reclassifies the new cigarette brands, the BIR expects them to add roughly P4.50 in taxes per pack.

La Suerte has marketed its products as affordable cigarettes with a premium taste as it mined its nearly half a century experience in making Marlboro and Philip Morris cigarettes to come up with homegrown brands that have immediately clicked with Filipino smokers. La Suerte has likewise tapped the deep-rooted distribution network that it has built in the last few decades that ensures that its brands were sold in *sari-sari* stores even in far-flung provinces.

La Suerte started to market its own brands in 1999 when Philip Morris indicated its interest in taking over control of the Philippine operations in line with its plan to build a $300-million manufacturing facility in Batangas. La Suerte wanted to use the success of Memphis and Astro brands as leverage in getting more than the 20 percent share offered by Philip Morris in the aborted partnership.

While the industry leader Fortune Tobacco Co. Inc. has also been ruffled by the spectacular performance of La Suerte , Philip Morris has been obviously bearing the brunt of the Filipino cigarette maker's onslaught as the new management has yet to adjust to a new market and a new plant.

Hybrid seed technology seen key to attaining self sufficiency in rice

By Christine A. Gaylican

FEATURE

PLANTING rice is still a lucrative business. The country's top 10 hybrid seed farmers have proven so and were recently recognized for reaping close to 11 metric tons of *palay* per hectare and earning some P70,000 to P90,000 in income last May.

The secret of these farmers' successful agribusiness ventures is in the seed—hybrid rice seeds.

The husband and wife team of Ernesto and Sonia Pablo of Rizal, Occidental Mindoro, was declared No. 1 hybrid seed farmers after the family's farm yielded 11. 8 metric tons of palay per hectare using hybrid seeds, surpassing their usual yield of 2 to 4 metric tons per hectare from traditional rice seeds.

Sonia, who has been farming with her husband for the last 15 years, said they were not successful with their first two attempts using hybrid seeds but their third paid off well.

Former hospital nurse Norma Lozada ranked second among the top 10 hybrid seed farmers as her farm in Barangay San Isidro Hagonoy, Davao, produced 9 metric tons per hectare in the last cropping season.

Innovations

"I invested about P12,000 for the inputs that included the hybrid seeds, fertilizers and farm labor. In return, I earned P70,000 per hectare," Norma said. She has a 5-hectare farm in her hometown.

She said she achieved this yield by also applying some innovations, such as using organic fertilizers that she personally makes out of dried rice stalks.

"The use of hybrid seeds also requires a rather radical planting style," says Sonia Pablo in an interview. "But it pays to be radical and avail oneself of the hybrid rice technology."

HYBRID seed planting brings up yields and farmers' earnings.

Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo, who was pleasantly surprised by the farmers' yields and income also directed the personnel of the agriculture department to audit the farmers' financial records.

The promise of higher yields and larger incomes for farmers prompted the DA to promote the rice technology last year.

Hybrid seeds came from Mainland China. They were invented by Yuan Long Ping in the late '80s. This was the rice technology applied by the Chinese that enabled them to be self-sufficient in rice production and to feed the entire population. China is now a net rice exporter.

China experience

In his recent visit to the Philippines, Chinese inventor Yuan Long Ping told President Macapagal Arroyo and Department of Agriculture officials that rice technology in the country has developed significantly over the past five years. He said it took China 10 years to apply the same technology in its agriculture sector.

Aside from the promise of higher yields, the use of hybrid seeds during the rainy season also prevents the attack of the bacteria that causes the blythe disease, which hits the rice stalks.

Unlike the traditional rice seeds that Filipino farmers have been using, planting of hybrid seeds will require new batches of seedlings every cropping season.

"Our farmers prefer to re-use the seedlings and this method has kept farm yields low," says Dr. Frisco Malabanan, the director for Department of Agriculture's rice program.

With the hybrid rice technology, Malabanan adds, farmers are required to use new seedlings every cropping to produce not less than 6 metric tons per hectare.

Government support

As hybrid seeds are more expensive at P2,400 per bag, the Department of Agriculture has agreed to shoulder half of the amount.

Malabanan notes that if the farmers pay on a cash basis, they will have to pay only P1,000 per bag of hybrid seeds and if it is under the plant-now pay-later scheme, they have to pay P1,200.

He adds that production loans were also available through the government-owned Quedan Rural Credit and Guarantee Corp.

The Philippines is hard pressed to increase its rice production due to the rapidly growing population and the decline in farm yields in the past 20 years, transforming the Philippines into a net rice importer. The country imports rice from other Asian countries such as Vietnam, China and Thailand.

The country's rice imports cost the government between P10 billion and P15 billion a year, National Food Authority records showed.

"It is a challenge to bring back the country's rice sufficiency and the hybrid rice program could be the key to this," says Malabanan. However, the government's budget is also a factor in propagating the technology.

"It is a new technology here so we need funds for the training of technical personnel and for the construction of more irrigation facilities."

For this year, the national government allotted only P1.6 billion for this purpose, which, he said, was not enough to build up irrigation facilities.

"We need to plant at least 300,000 hectares of rice land with hybrid seeds next year to intensify our campaign to attain sufficiency in rice. As of the first and second quarters of the year, we had 50,000 hectares planted to hybrid rice seeds," says Malabanan.

He notes that an intensive information campaign is needed to persuade farmers to shift to the use of hybrid seeds.

"Technology demonstration farms that showed the yields are also funded by the government and some of the firms," he adds.

Sources of seeds

Filipino-owned firm SL Agritech is one of the firms selling the hybrid seeds throughout the country. Recognizing the top hybrid seed farmers recently is the firm's way of promoting the new technology. The other firms selling hybrid rice seeds include US subsidiary Monsanto Philippines. The Rice Research Institute is also producing hybrid seeds for propagation.

Malabanan said the success of a farmer based in Cagayan Valley had allowed him to market his hybrid rice to fast-food restaurants like Jollibee Foods Corp. and some hotels here in Manila.

IMI, partner bag BeamReach deal

THE AYALAS' Integrated Microelectronics Inc. is set to manufacture high-tech accessories for BeamReach Networks, the leading developer of broadband wireless access systems, through a partnership with ISIS Surface Mounting of San Jose, California.

In a statement yesterday, IMI announced that its offshore partner ISIS had bagged a three-year contract with BeamReach to manufacture the base stations and the subscriber remote units for BeamReach's new generation broadband wireless access system, BeamPlex.

As part of the BeamReach-ISIS agreement, IMI will provide manufacturing services, the company said.

Bob Kelsch, CEO of BeamReach, said: "ISIS can manufacture both lower volume, complex designs, such as our base stations, as well as high volume, low-cost designs, such as our subscriber units, both in the US and in Asia through their established partnership with IMI."

ISIS was chosen because of its high quality of production during the prototype phase, its responsiveness and its demonstrated skill in manufacturing products. ISIS has expertise in a wide range of technology-related products, including linear, digital, and radio frequency.

Doris C. Dumlao

INTEREST RATES

July 22, 2003- MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 22-Jul-03	MART1 21-Jul-03
1 Month	6.2736	6.2536
3 Months	6.275	6.2518
6 Months	6.8	6.835
1 Year	7.3159	7.3117
2 Years	8.6233	8.6067
3 Years	9.2617	9.2417
4 Years	9.8143	9.7617
5 Years	10.0033	9.9983
7 Years	10.9339	10.8983
10 Years	11.2957	11.3063
20 Years	11.9358	11.9392
25 Years	12.2767	12.2933

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 22, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	19.25	19.25	19	19.25	149,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	49	48	48.5	673,100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	76,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	31.5	31	31.5	102,000
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	90	90	90	90	600
Philippine National Bank	25	26	25	26	62,800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	36,800
Security Bank Corp.	18	18	17.5	17.75	36,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.5	22.75	22.5	22.5	192,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.44	168,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1480	1480	1480	1480	80
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.24	1.28	2,414,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1050	1055	1050	1055	760
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.75	22	21.75	21.75	5,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.72	0.73	0.72	0.72	2,620,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	740	740	725	730	22,220
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.0575	0.0575	0.055	0.0575	3,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.032	0.037	0.032	0.036	50,700,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.61	0.61	13,540,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	150,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	570	570	565	565	249,010
Ivantage Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	20,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	12,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.25	13.25	13	13	723,300
Manila Electric Co. B	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.75	1,141,200
Petron Corp.	2.26	2.26	2.18	2.2	1,513,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.46	230,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.9	979,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	40,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2.38	2.38	2.38	2.38	51,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.41	0.46	0.4	0.45	2,760,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.8	42,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	40,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	500,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	13,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.75	3,100
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	40,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	300,000
San Miguel Corp. A	52	53	51.5	53	194,800
San Miguel Corp. B	61	61.5	60.5	61	153,800
Vitarich Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.35	0.36	0.34	0.34	130,000
Ayala Corp.	4.85	4.95	4.85	4.85	9,609,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	107,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.042	0.044	0.04	0.041	20,300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.75	0.78	0.75	0.78	200,000
APC Group Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	1,300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	5,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.88	1.94	71,000
ATN Holdings Inc. B	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	30,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.15	920,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.85	0.87	0.82	0.83	17,420,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	1,190,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.185	0.23	0.185	0.23	7,820,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.0575	800,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.235	0.35	0.235	0.34	34,260,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	16,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.25	17.25	754,500
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	280,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.095	0.135	0.095	0.135	28,000,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	10,000
Ionics Inc.	1.94	2.02	1.76	1.76	4,187,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1,382,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.83	0.78	0.82	9,970,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	8,760,000
Music Corp.	0.48	0.52	0.48	0.48	13,010,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.15	30,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,200,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1.04	1	1.04	340,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	250,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	69,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0625	0.07	0.0625	0.07	4,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	17.25	17.25	16.5	16.75	249,900
Steniel Manufacturing	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	180,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.62	0.63	2,650,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	200,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	860,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.29	0.31	0.29	0.29	980,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22	22	22	22	32,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,400
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	16,000,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	525	525	525	525	20
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.6	10,552,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.215	0.26	0.215	0.25	3,530,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.2	22,350,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	7,010,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.2	1.24	1.16	1.18	10,787,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.32	0.37	0.3	0.33	31,420,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.215	0.27	0.215	0.26	4,720,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	50,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	22,000
SM Development Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	131,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	9,017,000
Zipporah Rlty Hldgs Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	90,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	42,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	950,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	13,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	10,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	1,410,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	440,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	7,500,000
Interport Res. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	111,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	2,000,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	1,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	320,000

DISCLOSURES

LEPANTO Consolidated Mining Co. announced the promotion of Augusto Villaluna from vice president to senior vice president and resident manager of Lepanto Mine Division. Ernesto Laoagan was designated assistant resident manager.

* * *

PETRON Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 28, 9 a.m. at the Fiesta Pavilion of Manila Hotel. Stockholders of record as of May 29 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Wise Holdings Inc. were Renato Francisco, Vicente Campa Jr., Eduardo Alino, Ramon Mapa, Enrique Esteban, Lazaro Madara, Antonio Ortigas, Francisco Varua, Rolando David, Augustus Paiso and Juliano Lim.

* * *

KUOK Philippine Properties Inc. denied having any information to explain the 50-percent increase in its share price to P0.27 per share from P0.185.

* * *

FAR Eastern University will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 23, 3 p.m. at the Administration Bldg., FEU, Sampaloc, Manila. Stockholders of record as of June 30 are entitled to vote at the meeting. Also, FEU declared a 65-percent stock dividend in favor of stockholders of record as of July 25.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Empire East Land Holdings Inc. were Andrew Tan, Gerardo Garcia, George Yang, Anthony Charlemagne Yu, Cirilo Manlangit, Enrique Santos Sy and Reynaldo Guevara.

Compiled by Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

July 22, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.880669	1.000000	53.710000
Japan	Yen	0.007436	0.008444	0.453500
United Kingdom	Pound	1.409952	1.601000	85.989700
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112919	0.128220	6.886700
Switzerland	Franc	0.650949	0.739153	39.699900
Canada	Dollar	0.626900	0.711845	38.233200
Singapore	Dollar	0.501377	0.569314	30.577900
Australia	Dollar	0.573054	0.650703	34.949300
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.336055	2.652590	142.470600
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.234839	0.266660	14.322300
Brunei	Dollar	0.499954	0.567698	30.491100
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000120	0.006400
Thailand	Baht	0.021129	0.023992	1.288600
UAE	Dirham	0.239775	0.272264	14.623300
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.135500	60.987700
Argentina	Peso	0.315088	0.357782	19.216500
Brazil	Real	0.306107	0.347584	18.668700
Denmark	Kroner	0.134423	0.152637	8.198100
India	Rupee	0.019074	0.021659	1.163300
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.231786	0.263193	14.136100
Mexico	New Peso	0.084420	0.095859	5.148600
New Zealand	Dollar	0.506306	0.574911	30.878500
Norway	Kroner	0.119567	0.135768	7.292100
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015281	0.017352	0.932000
South Africa	Rand	0.115271	0.130890	7.030100
Korea	Won	0.000748	0.000849	0.045600
Sweden	Kroner	0.107732	0.122330	6.570300
Syria	Pound	0.020969	0.023810	1.278800
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025668	0.029146	1.565400
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000552	0.000627	0.033700

US economic activity improves slightly in June

NEW YORK—A gauge of economic activity improved slightly in June for the third consecutive month, buttressing the view that the United States is on the cusp of a financial recovery even if signs of weakness persist.

The Conference Board reported Monday that its Index of Leading Economic Indicators increased by 0.1 percent in June to 111.8, in line with analysts' expectations. However, with high unemployment and weakness in the manufacturing sector, economists said it is too soon to know whether the United States is about to enjoy a period of steady economic growth.

"The rebound in the economy is still more of a forecast than a fact," said Douglas Porter, senior economist at Nesbitt Burns Securities of Chicago.

Four of the 10 components of the leading indicators index rose in June, including the real money supply, stock prices and building permits, the New York-based Conference Board said. *AP*

EU, Japan push plan to study dumping rules

GENEVA—The European Union and Japan joined on Monday to put up a plan to cut the expense for firms around the globe who are drawn into investigations by foreign governments into whether they are dumping their goods or selling them below production costs on export markets.

Officials told reporters they would present the proposals at the World Trade Organization (WTO) later in the week. It is the first common action of its type they have taken together in the current Doha Round of free trade negotiations.

They said the plan would be a "win-win" situation for all members of the 146-nation WTO, where so-called anti-dumping actions, until recently almost exclusively initiated by major powers, and especially the United States and the EU, have burgeoned as emerging economies like India have taken up the practice. *Reuters*

Australia warned against free trade deal with US

SYDNEY—Australia is jeopardizing its economic and security interests by pursuing a free trade deal with the United States which will discriminate against its Asian trading partners, one of the nation's leading trade experts warned Tuesday.

Professor Ross Garnaut, a former adviser to prime minister Bob Hawke's government, said there were also major flaws in officials' claims as to the value of the deal to Australia.

Garnaut said that by striking an FTA with the United States, Australia would hurt its economic interests which may lie with other countries.

Instead of focusing on the current round of World Trade Organization (WTO) trade talks, which would produce far larger benefits by cutting tariffs and subsidies everywhere, Australia was working on a deal that would do little for the national economy, he said.

Garnaut said some East Asian countries were now looking at their own bilateral deals which would exclude Australia. *AFP*

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P 100,001 - P500,000	4.375%	4.625%	4.875%
P 500,001 - P5,000,000	6.125%	6.375%	6.625%
P 5,000,001 and above	6.375%	6.625%	6.875%

DOLLAR TIME DEPOSIT			
$ 1,000 - $10,000	1.250%	1.250%	1.250%
$ 10,001 - $100,000	1.625%	1.625%	1.625%
$ 100,001 - $500,000	2.500%	2.500%	2.500%
$ 500,001 and above	2.875%	2.875%	2.875%

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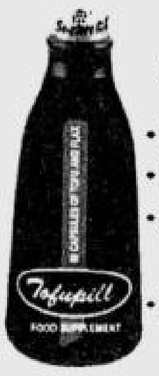

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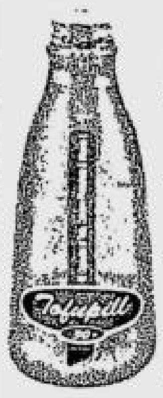

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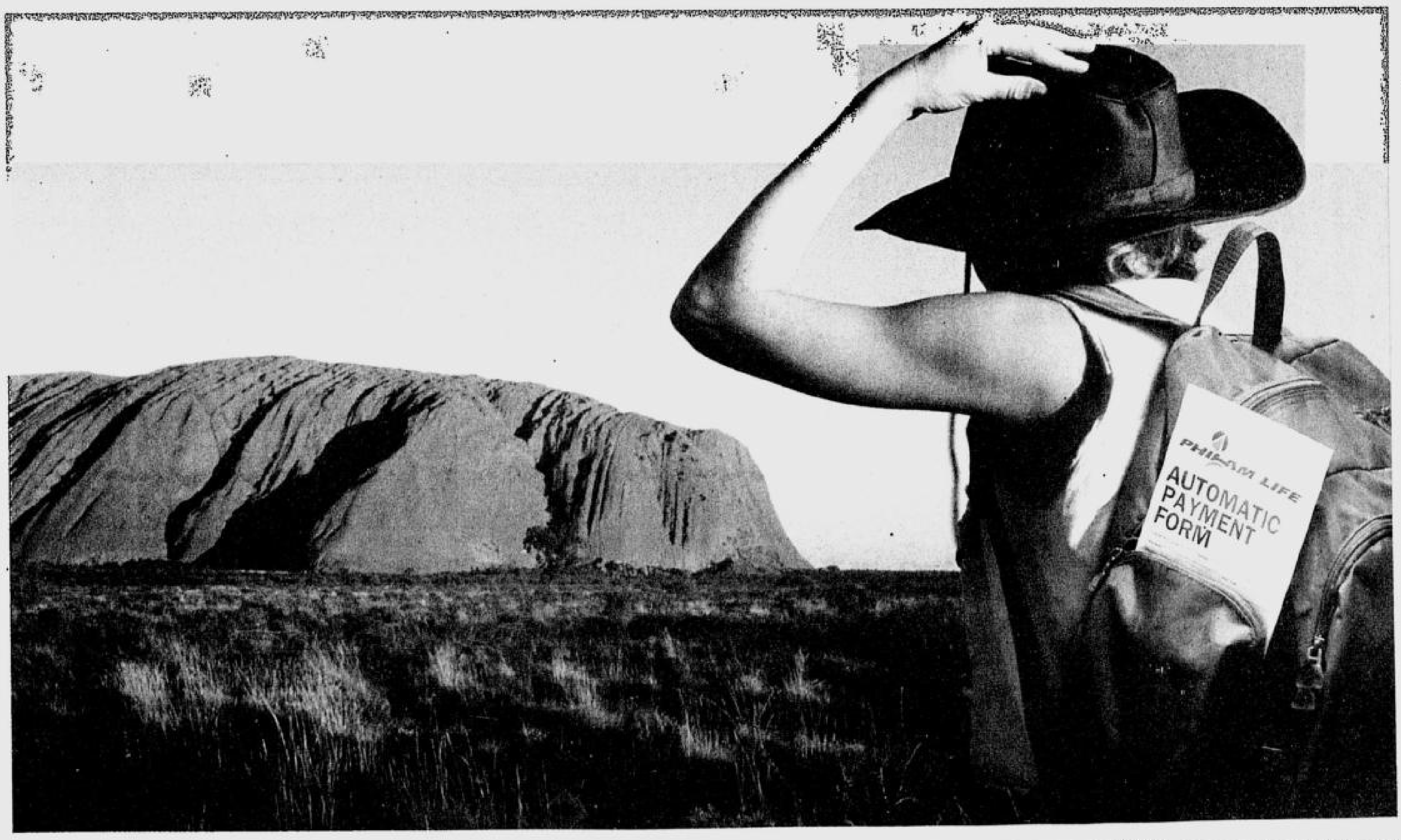

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Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Subsection Editor **Regina Galang Reyes**

'I long for a job that will bring out my best'

By Emily Abrera
Chair, McCann-Erickson Phils.

GOOD day, Ma'am Emily! I read the feature article on you, "Creativity opens door to C-Suite" by Cecile Garcia in the Philippine Daily Inquirer last March 12, 2003. The article inspired me a lot and I wish you to be my career mentor.

I would like to seek some advice on my career path which may look confusing to some due to my varied interests. I had been in and out of jobs due to its contractual nature and yet I don't mind. But since I turned 26, I began to realize the importance of taking the lead in my career and defining it as well.

I am a graduate of AB Sociology from the a well-known university in the South. I had been in the job market for almost five years. My previous employment experiences were in teaching, research and corporate planning. Basically, my training was in research and the academe. I am on my second engagement as a consultant. The first was an environmental intervention, the current one is a human resource project—a performance evaluation system.

I have set high standards and goals for myself. Despite the big breaks I got into, I still feel the need to move up and take advantage of learning opportunites out there. I believe I am highly trainable because despite the lack of usual training, seminars and other career advancement programs, I managed to perform my assigned tasks. But this also is viewed as a liability by some employers. They think that I lack proper and systematized training. This is probably due to my previous employers who weren't able to maximize and utilize my potentials.

So I keep on moving, hoping that every job I get into would satiate my hunger for learning and advancement. I long for a job that would develop and bring out the best in me.

The competition is tough nowadays and I'm afraid I might be left out by some of my contemporaries.

What should I do, what step must I take next? I am interested in getting a masters degree, maybe an MBA or organizational development. I am also interested in development intervention and social sciences. Please advise me on my predicament. Thank you for your time. More power to you!

Truly Yours,
MSE

ASK YOUR CEO

Thank you for writing and for being so candid about your employment history thus far. Although I cannot possibly appreciate the full scope of your capabilities from your one letter alone, I have tried to put together some advice that may help you determine your next steps in your search for your ideal career.

You've been quite adventurous in that you've taken on quite a variety of jobs during the past five years-you've tried out teaching, research and corporate planning, as well as worked on some developmental projects. I realize it hasn't been easy for fresh graduates to find permanent employment in the past few years, so maybe that is the reason why you've had to move jobs often. Well, at the very least, that tells me that you have an open attitude and the willingness to work, which are good signs.

Reflections

You can put all these experiences to good use by reflecting on them and asking yourself: which of them gave you the most satisfaction? Which was the most frustrating? When did you feel most motivated and inspired? Was there an instance when you liked your job but couldn't keep it, and for what reason? Or did none of them really appeal to you, on hindsight? This exercise requires utmost honesty and humility and is meant to help you figure out whether you're moving jobs because those happen to be the only ones available, or whether you're moving jobs because your employer senses a lack of commitment on your part?

Sometimes, because we have a great many interests, we flit from one thing to another too quickly in the hope that we will recognize that ideal job when we finally meet it. So what happens is that we never quite engage ourselves deeply enough or long enough in any one pursuit to figure out if that's the one that's meant for us.

Falling in love

Finding the right career is a bit like falling in love, I guess... it's not always "at first sight," although that's dramatic and exciting. More often we fall in love slowly, as we become more familiar and develop a deeper friendship with people we didn't even notice when we first met them. (These are probably the more lasting kinds.) I daresay that if you've had five jobs in five years, and none of them felt right, it's possible that you haven't taken any of them seriously enough. Of course, it could also be that because the positions for which you were hired were just contractual, you treated the opportunities as short-term transactions. Be that as it may, at least they can be useful to you in retrospect, to help you figure out your direction.

Continuous learning

I get the idea that you feel somewhat inadequate in that you have not been able to participate in seminars and other kinds of training since you graduated. I wouldn't worry too much about that. The nature of your employment hasn't given you those opportunities and no one will take that against you. But I think it's great that you desire to keep on learning, possibly take up an MBA or get into organizational development. Maybe your short exposure to corporate planning, and the current project you're working on are the most challenging and interesting ones for you? If so, I'd say, yes. Get yourself some units in org-dev or org-com.

Here's one course of action you may want to consider: if you have at this point established some sort of track record in working on HR projects, and you can continue doing that for awhile longer on a consultancy basis, then, that may be a good arrangement if you decide to pursue a master's degree. That's the upside about contractual employment-you have greater freedom with your time.

CEO mentor Abrera PDI FILE

Now, on the other hand, if you want to find more permanent employment, I strongly suggest that you start looking for an opening in a stable company where you can dig your heels into an HR position so that you can begin to develop a love and a passion for this field. Do it NOW, or your resume will have too many short stints at different places and that rarely impresses a potential corporate employer. Good luck.

(Send your requests for career advice from our CEO columnists to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.) ph.)

MANAGING YOUR CAREER TO THE TOP

How to relate positively with your boss

By Josie O. Santamaria

(This is the third of a series of articles on "Managing Your Career to the Top.")

YOUR boss and how you relate with him is important in your career. Here are some tips on how you can relate well with your boss:

1. Recognize his humanity. Acknowledge that he has his own weaknesses, just like you. Compensate for his weak points. Employees quickly notice the deficiencies and imperfections of their boss more than they do theirs. The trouble is, your boss' deficiencies can have a big impact on you. Your boss may be non-assertive or he may be aggressive. He may not be organized enough or he may be on the compulsive side. He may not be people oriented or he may be weak on the technical side. Be able to supply the missing link but don't make it obvious to him and never publicize it to others. Be low key.

2. Limit the "great ideas" and sell them effectively to your boss first. When you are new to the job, there is the general tendency to impress the boss and the team. You may be tempted make suggestions to show the boss how smart you are. Unfortunately, this is not the best way of winning the admiration of your boss. What every boss wants is a smooth and efficient operation that gets the job done with minimum of problems. The quality of your idea isn't the only thing being evaluated. You, as the presentor, have a lot to do with whether it's accepted or not. The boss considers factors like your own performance history, your track record on other projects, your current rank and status, and your length of service in the organization.

Be careful when you try to propose changes or innovations in your work or in your section or unit. There are four things you may need to consider when recommending changes: first, you probably don't know what you're talking about; second, if the problem and its solution look so obvious yet no one has taken action, perhaps there's a deeper level you don't know; third, nobody likes a know-it-all; and, fourth, you're making your boss look inept.

There are some strategies to sell your ideas. Before you publicly push your idea, and embarrass yourself and others, get the reactions of your boss. If your boss agrees with it, get him to champion your idea and make it his, not yours.

3. Help him with time management. Show respect for your boss' time. Visit quickly and not too often. Watch out for your tendency to keep going to your boss' office. You can become a time waster and others will perceive you as "sipsip." If you have something you need from the boss but it can wait, save up to five to six different items, schedule it and do it quickly. Set an agenda for each trip to his office. Consider your over-all purpose. How does your agenda affect the timing? Do you need to make an appointment or should this be a walk in? Check his preferred time of day.

4. Help your boss when he conducts meeting. Have the right mindset for meetings. See the meeting as a common ground of office communication, a way of getting to know the people who are present and to develop pleasant working relationships with them, and the arena where major decisions are made or validated. Your behavior during meeting has strong impact on your over-all reputation in the organization, and acceptance by the others present.

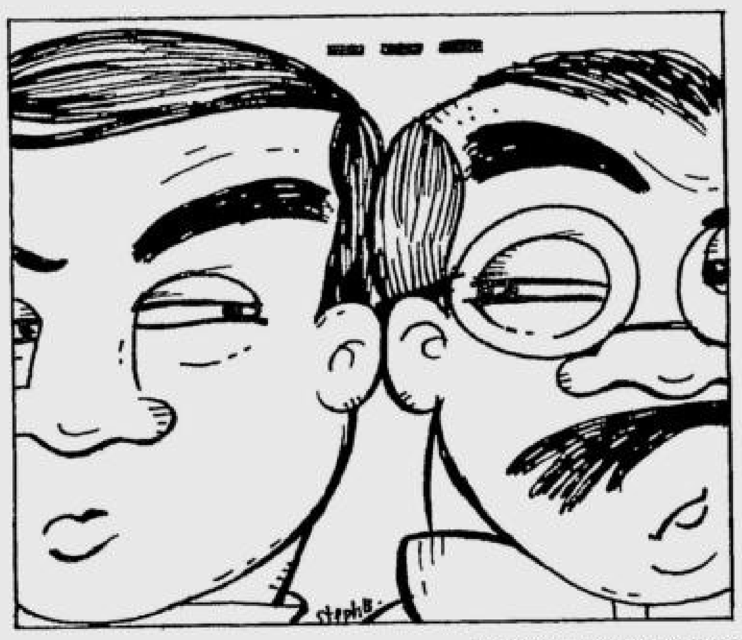


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

Prepare for the meeting.

HOW TO/ B7

PARTNERS FOR PEOPLE AT WORK LIVE! IN BICOL. Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) and Optimus Managers & Advisors, Inc. partner to bring the popular People at Work Live! Seminar Series to the Bicol region in the 57th PICPA Annual National Convention. Shown at the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement are (from left): PICPA officers Conrado Roxas, Lina Dilao, Wilson Tan, PICPA president Crisanto Castro Jr., Dr. Rufo Mendoza; Inquirer SVP for Sales and Marketing Rene Reinoso, Optimus president Juan Reyes Jr., and Inquirer AVP for Marketing Services Donald Lim. ROGER CARPIO

OFFICERS of PICPA National and the Bicol and Laguna Chapters synergize with Inquirer and Optimus executives for People at Work Live! at the 57th PICPA Annual National Convention.

People at Work Live! goes to Bicol

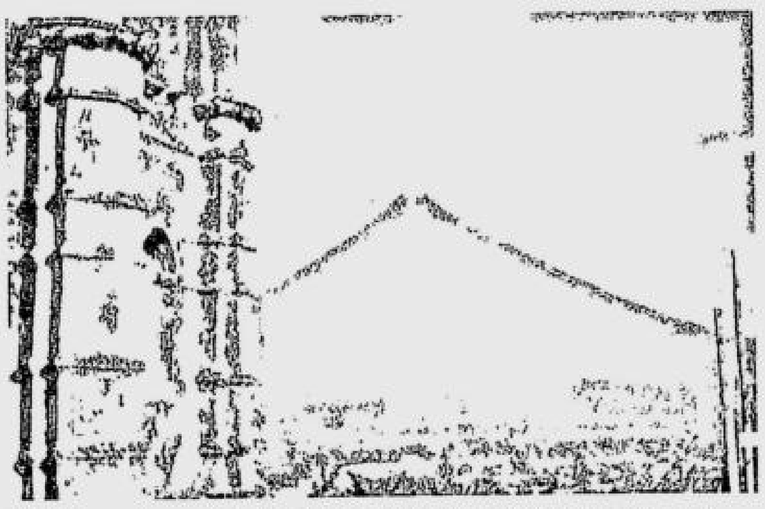
A SPECIAL Philippine Daily Inquirer People at Work Live! Seminar Series will be conducted at the Astrodome in Legaspi City, Albay on Nov. 27, 2003 from 1p.m. to 6 p.m.. This is the second time that the series will be conducted outside of Metro Manila since the start of this program in May 2001.

This was made possible by the invitation of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) which will hold its 57th Annual National Convention from Nov. 27 to 29, 2003 in the same site. The People at Work Live! Seminar Series schedule will be part of the convention but will be open to the public at that particular time. Convention delegates and residents of Albay and the other provinces in the Bicol region are expected to attend the seminar series which shall be offered at popular prices.

The half day event will include the following learning sessions: "Discovering and Developing Your Passion in Life" to be conducted by Regina Galang Reyes, "Getting Ahead at Work Without Leaving Your Family Behind" to be conducted by An Mercado Alcantara, and "Creativity for Continuous Competitives" to be conducted by Teresa Reyes Tunay.

Reyes is the editor of People at Work section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Alcantara is the editor-in-chief of Metro Working Mom. Tunay is the editor-in-chief of Blue Collar Magazine. These resource persons are all editors of publications that feature workplace concerns and working people.

This event, which is organized by Optimus Managers & Advisors, Inc., will be a rare learning opportunity for the people in the region to avail of valuable training programs that can help them in their careers and lives at subsidized registration fees. Discounts will be given to students, teachers and government employees. For more information, contact the PICPA Albay Chapter: Abner Ty at tel. no. (052) 820-8477, (052) 481-1253, or fax no. (052) 820-6280; PICPA Laguna Chapter Grace Padlan at telefax no. (632) 868-7662, Sally Pangilinan at (632) 847-5759, or Lina Dilao at (632) 897-4386 local 2151.



PICPA members will get a glimpse of the famous Mayon Volcano as they troop to Legaspi City, Albay for their convention. PDI FILE

What are the keys to a successful marketing campaign?

DEAR WW: I just inherited a family business. The business has been declining in the last few years, in part because it's never been well marketed. Unfortunately, marketing's not my forte. Can you give me some pointers?

Ready To Go To Market

Donald Cresitello and George Burke were running neck and neck for a town council seat in Morristown, New Jersey when Burke died mid-campaign. That didn't stop Cresitello from worrying, though. "Now he's liable to get the sympathy vote," he complained. (Yes, this is true. I read it in a wonderful compendium of off-the-wall news clippings called News of the Weird.)

Of course, Cresitello's concern is not entirely unfounded: more than once, dead politicians have ridden the "sympathy vote" into office. However, I've yet to hear of customers opening their wallets in "sympathy sales" to resuscitate a dead or dying product. So for advice on how to turn your company into a lean, mean marketing machine, I suggest you turn to "Selling the Invisible" by Harry Beckwith (Warner, 1997). It's been on every business bestseller list for months because it uses stories and simple examples to illustrate key marketing concepts. The following questions have been adapted from it.

Guidelines

Is marketing part of every employee's job description? Beckwith quotes an old Jewish proverb, "don't open a shop unless you know how to smile." Your receptionists, business office staff, and delivery people often spend more time with customers than your salespeople do. Think of them as marketers so that you encourage and train them to put a good face on your business.

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

Are you trying to win customers over at every point of contact? Phone book ads, brochures, telephone operators, customer service representatives and even business cards are customer contact points. Make sure that you make the best out of even the most mundane interactions with your customers.

Clients preferences

What are your clients really buying? The answer is: more than just your product. It might be reliability, convenience, security-whatever it is you need to know. So learn everything you can about your customers, how they use your product and why. Once you find it out, tout it in all the places listed above, then be sure to deliver it every time.

Can you reduce your customer's fear? Buying a new product is a leap into the unknown. Offering a trial period, test product or product guarantee is a way to reduce their fear. Rather than always trying to make them say yes, try to make it impossible for them to say no.

Honest marketing

Are you hiding all your warts? Conventional wisdom says cover up anything that could be considered a weakness. Beckwith disagrees. He says including some self-criticism goes a long way toward making your self-praise seem more believable.

"Selling the Invisible" maintains that marketing isn't a department, it's everyone's job. If you can convince all your employees that they're marketers too, your company probably won't be dead-or even in the red.

Our winning marketing strategy comes from Donna in Nashua, NH. "The most effective marketing I have seen was by a little entrepreneur, dressed head to toe in green. Yes, my neighborhood girl scout taught me a great lesson. I bought a couple of boxes of her cookies. The week after the sale I found a cute handwritten note tucked under my door thanking me for the sale. There will be plenty of girl scouts after my business next year, but only one already has earned a future sale."

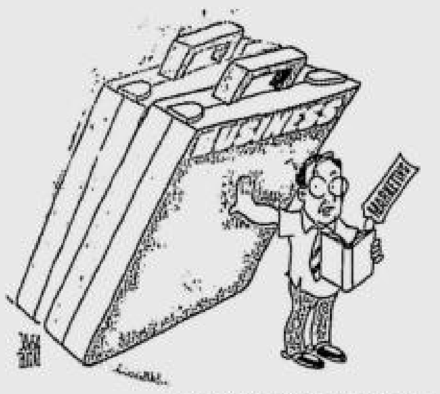


ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

(Mr. Rosner is the author of bestsellers "The Boss' Survival Guide," Mcgraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, speaker and founder of the award-winning WorkingWounded.com and RetentionEvangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

How to relate positively ...

From page B6

Look at the agenda and do your homework. Come prepared to participate and to listen. Don't use your cell phone during the meeting even if the others do. This shows your respect for your boss and for others. Be a role model of a good participant.

Topnotch meeting planner

If you are organizing the meeting, know what you have to do to run a topnotch meeting, including having your agenda with inputs from your boss and making sure people who should be there are there.

To summarize, support, not antagonize, your boss so that he will be as effective as he needs to be. Advance his interests and goals along with your own. Your success and professional growth should benefit your boss as well. You can succeed if and only if you help your boss succeed. Remember you will be a boss yourself. Then you will know how it feels and how you need your subordinates to help you succeed.

Other factors

There are other things to consider in developing a win-win relationship with your boss as follows:

How is your boss' career in the organization? Is your boss a high flyer in the organization, someone who is also being developed for future advancement and for leadership roles? Or is he likely settle in for the rest of his career? If the latter, is it voluntary or involuntary? Is he motivated by advancement ("let's make changes and grow") or security ("lets play it safe and avoid rocking the boat")?

Does he have a good relationship with his own boss and others in senior management? Or does tension exist? Are there feuds going on? If your boss has difficult relationships with certain colleagues or even with his own boss, avoid them so you will not be involved in their "war".

Are you perceived as a help or a threat? Be aware when you are being perceived as a threat, even if you don't intend to. If you are seen or you see yourself as smarter, more of a go-getter, better connected, or more able than your boss, you may be considered a threat by your boss. So, avoid comparing him with yourself. Build up and "good mouth" your boss. If you badmouth him to others to show you are a better person, you only succeed in showing your character. Avoid any show of an ego trip or self-promotion about your talents and skills, even if you have them.

Managing your boss

If you find your boss difficult to relate with, chances are he feels the same way about you. I disagree with what the famous management guru Peter Drucker said: "You don't have to like or admire your boss, nor do you have to hate him. You do have to manage him, however, so that he becomes your resource for achievement, accomplishment, and personal success."

Trusting relationship

You must find a reason to like him; otherwise, you will be putting up a front and being a hypocrite. And you won't like yourself. Sometimes, when there is a trusting relationship between you and your boss, he might disclose about his past history, his childhood, his experiences of success and failure. This can give you an opportunity to appreciate the dynamics behind his attitudes and behaviors, and have empathy.

If you don't like your boss, process yourself. Why don't you like him? What is he doing or saying that you don't like? And what are you doing or saying that causes him to be disappointed or angry with you? Are you the cause of his negative behavior?

(Next week: What if your boss is really a problem boss? How do you give him feedback so that he can change his ways?)

(Ms. Santamaria is the president of Career Systems, Inc., one of the leading career development consultancy firms in the country. Email feedback to carsys@qinet.net.*)*

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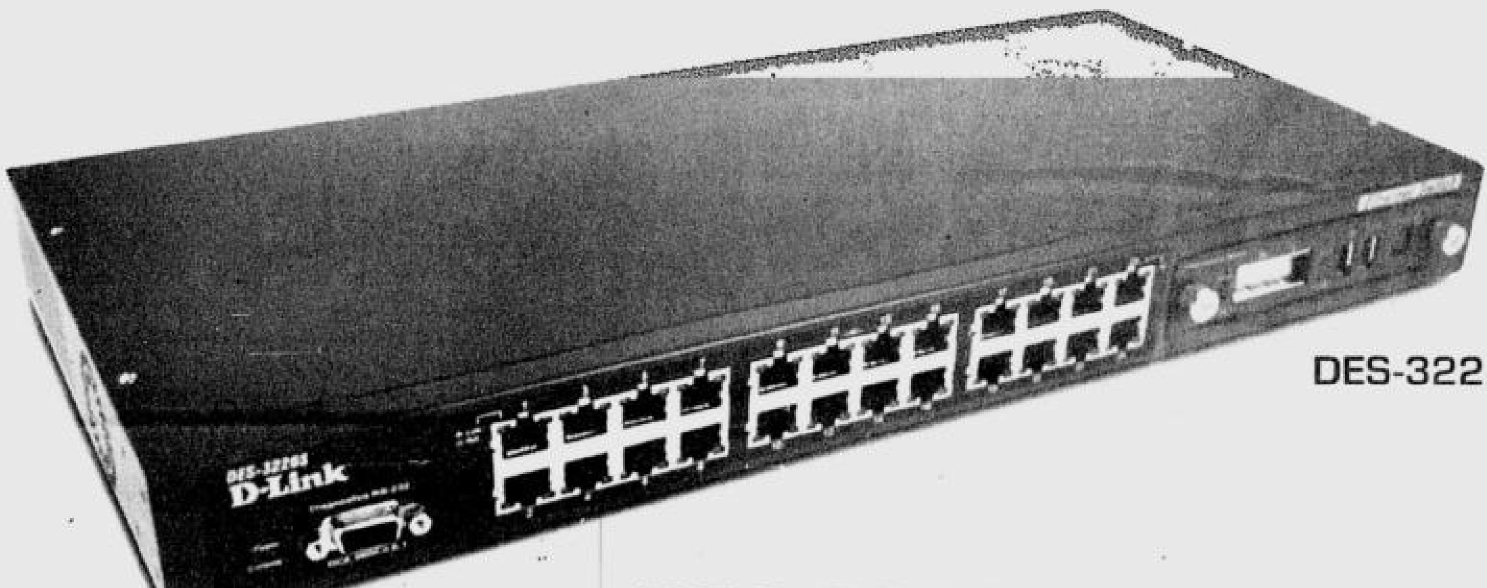

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QUEZON CITY

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Cubao P1.4m 10%DP 9132224

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LOT

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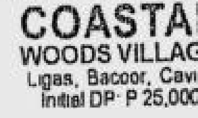
REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

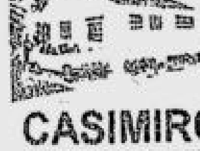
HOUSE & LOT

OTHER AREAS

WESTVILLE
HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP P 15,000



COASTAL
WOODS VILLAGE
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP P 25,000



CASIMIRO
TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP P 15,000

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QUEZON CITY

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El Grande Valley Angono 344sqm 1.2M Call 513-0691

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BAGUIO

Nr Green Valley 23has 4 sale or joint venture 9330092

OFFICE SPACE

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MEMORIAL LOT

Heritage Memorial Park Lawn Garden Estate 9298376

HMLYANG PIL 1.7M 9316443

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BATAAN nr BEPZ 331has. Financer Only 0919-2221766

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

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4 Rent Commercial Space BF Pque P17T Tel.8071133

HOUSE

BAGUIO

2BR P1,500/DAY FF 9316443

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2.5M 4121825•09177914366

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ORTIGAS CTR 1BR 15T Unl
412-1825•0917-7914366

RENAISNCE 2000 2BR 137m²
Furn 4121825•0917-7914366

SAN JUAN

GRNHILLS 4BR # 09178463228

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2Bdrm/ U/Dn T8973770 / 1C StgH2O/Npnt/Screen/Cmpd

QUEZON CITY

Cubao P3.5 Std Lady 9124428

WAREHOUSE/FACTORY

BODEGA NEW 200SQM NR C5 PASIG 631-9584 • 636-3594

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BEDSPACE

2Prof Ldies 09192849721

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2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

BUSINESS / SALARY 842-2788

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OFFICE SPACES FOR LEASE (42m² up to 627m²) 887-6003

ORTIGAS CTR # 09178463228

ORTIGAS CTR OFC 110m² to 3000m² 4121825•09177914366

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

BNew Condo near Mkt Med studio to penthouse,10T-40T rent 1.7M-8.5M sale / 0918-3483808

OTHER REAL ESTATE

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PNOC PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY)

11/F BA Lepanto Building
8747 Paseo de Roxas
1227 Makati City, Philippines

Tel. No. 892-0293
892-0283
810-7161

Fax No. 892-0346

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY, SHORT LISTING AND TO BID

The PNOC Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) invites Filipino and foreign Consultants, to apply for eligibility and short listing and if subsequently found eligible and short-listed, to bid for the *Development of Master Plan for the Centralized Utilities and Facilities in the Petrochem Park*, with a project duration of one hundred eighty two (182) calendar days, providing the following services:

- review the latest development plan prepared for the Petrochem Park, and validate and update as necessary the assumptions made therein.
- from the programmatic EIA and own database of Consultant, do a supply-demand analysis of utilities at Petrochem Park at various stages — current, with Cracker, and at full development.
- prepare a Pre-Feasibility Study to identify which among the CUFs in the Petrochem Park are feasible.
- develop an overall Master Plan for the CUFs in the Petrochem Park indicating the location and preliminary design basis or parameters for each CUF vis-à-vis the process plants to enable preparation of investment and operating cost estimates acceptable to PPDC and its potential joint venture (JV) partners and utility/facility enterprises.
- formulate siting guidelines and standards for the establishment of each CUF.
- evaluate various business options that PPDC may undertake for each of its CUFs, and recommend most viable scheme for each CUF.
- develop an action plan including detailed implementation and critical path plan leading to the establishment and operation of each CUF.
- shortlist and recommend potential investors and JV partners for each utility/facility in the Petrochem Park.

The Requirements for Eligibility and Short Listing shall be secured from:

The BAC Secretariat
PNOC Petrochemical Development Corporation
11/F Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo De Roxas, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 750-2693 / 892-1420
Fax No. 810-6418

Said documents shall be available at the above address during regular office hours, starting July 25 to August 7, 2003, until 5:00 p.m. A non-refundable payment of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) shall be paid to cover the cost of application forms.

All Eligibility requirements must be submitted on or before August 21, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at the above address. The eligibility envelopes shall be opened in public at the abovementioned place at 2:30 p.m. of August 21, 2003 to determine the eligibility of each of the Prospective Bidders to participate in the public bidding of, and to undertake the Development of Master Plan for the CUFs in the Petrochem Park, subject to Short Listing and Post Qualification guidelines. The Short Listing Criteria shall consist of experience (40%), personnel (50%) and job capacity (10%). Only parties who pass the eligibility check and short listing shall participate in the actual public bidding. Bids of eligible and short-listed bidders shall be evaluated under applicable guidelines of quality-cost based evaluation procedures. The approved budget for this Project is Ten Million Six Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP10,600,000.00) inclusive of VAT.

PPDC shall send invitations to short-listed Consultants on September 22 and 23, 2003. Bid Documents to Short-listed Consultants shall be issued at the above address from September 24 to 26, 2003, from 9:30-11:00 a.m. and 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Pre-bid Conference shall be conducted on October 3, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. Deadline for submission and opening of bids is on October 17, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. Venue of both the Pre-bid Conference and Opening of Bids shall be at the above address.

PPDC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, if there is evidence of collusion between relevant public officers or employees of the agency or the BAC and any of the bidders, or among the bidders, or between bidders and third parties, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or cancel the bidding due to supervening events. PPDC also reserves the right to waive any required formality in the bids received.

Signed this 22nd day of July, 2003.

(Sgd.) VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA
Chairman,
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–July 23 & 31, 2003)

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★Vans Coaster Bus 440-9171

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Accounting Clerk Fresh/Acctg. Grad.Pref.Makati/Manda. Res Call: 563-9089 / 563-9101

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MAIDS DIRECT HIRE 8705554

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that estate of late MAXIMO PUYAT JR. was extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc.366 Page 82 BookXXXIII Series 2000 before Notary Public Regalado P. Castillo of Quezon City.
PDI-July 23,30 & Aug. 6,2003

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of CLAUDIO F. HACHERO and late ANNIEA HACHERO has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc.#2567 Series of 2003 Service #2567 under Consul General Jocelyn Batoon Garcia of Philippine Consular Service Washington District of Columbia USA 16th day of July 2003
(PDI-July 23, 20 & Aug. 6, 2003)

PERSONAL

PRAYER
TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen. Rose E.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES
IBA

Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Tel. No. (047) 811-7201

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF ZAMBALES, HELD AT THE SESSION HALL, CAPITOL, IBA, THIS PROVINCE, ON THE 21ST DAY OF JULY, 2003

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-227

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING STRONG SUPPORT, FULL TRUST AND UNWAVERING CONFIDENCE TO THE LEADERSHIP OF GEN. HERMOGENES E. EBDANE,JR. AS PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) CHIEF

WHEREAS, the big challenge that now faces the PNP does not alone lies on the shoulder of the PNP Chief but a responsibility and accountability of every level of the PNP structure and the whole security force of the nation;

WHEREAS, the common fight against crime, terrorism and other forms of criminality, should be a united front not only of the men in uniform but of the whole citizenry;

WHEREAS, our focus at this time is how to bring back to bars the fugitives of the law and not for the ouster of the PNP Chief who for all these days that he assumed his post has exemplified outstanding performance of his duties and responsibilities as PNP Chief,

WHEREFORE, UPON UNANIMOUS ACCORD of all the members present, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Zambales in session assembled –

RESOLVE, as it is hereby resolved, that this Body hereby earnestly and strongly expresses its full trust, strong support and unwavering confidence to the leadership of Gen. Hermogenes E. Ebdane, Jr. as PNP Chief, not only being our kababayan but because we believe in his leadership, ability and qualification.

RESOLVED FURTHER strongly that Gen. Hermogenes E. Ebdane, Jr. be retained in his post as PNP Chief to continue to pursue his vision and commitment to win the battle on the street and make peace and order as stable as always in the country.

RESOLVE FURTHERMORE to furnish copies of this resolution to Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Malacañang, Manila, Hon. Jose D. Lina, Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government, Manila, for their consideration and to all Sangguniang Panlalawigan in the entire country, for support and to Dir. General Hermogenes E. Ebdane, Jr., PNP Chief, Manila, for his information.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY this 21st day of July, 2003.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

KATHYRINE C. PAN
Secretary to the SP

JOHN J. GUTIERREZ, SR.
SP Member

WILFREDO V. FELARCA
SP Member

RIZALINO F. PABLO, JR.
SP Member

SANCHO A. ABASTA, JR.
SP Member

PORFIRIO F. ELAMPARO
SP Member

ERODITO A. PARADEZA
SP Member

GENARO N. MONTEFALCON
SP Member

RUFO E. EDQUILANG
SP Member

JURY E. DELOSO
SP Member

SAMUEL D. ABLOLA
SP Member

EDGARDO C. GELACIO
ABC President

DENNIS MIKE Y. FELARCA
SK President

ATTESTED:

RAMON G. LACBAIN II
Vice Governor
Presiding Officer

APPROVED 7-21 2003

VICENTE P. MAGSAYSAY
Governor

Service Technician

Description: a trading company engaged in the supply of beverage dispensers, has immediate job opening for Service Technician.

Skills Required: Qualified candidates will have a Mechanical Engineering Background or at least 1 year hands-on experience in Refrigeration Service. Strong understanding of refrigeration theory and the ability to read ladder diagrams also required. Sales and Marketing experience is a plus. Must have good communication skills both in written and oral English. Must be willing to travel and have a valid driver's license.

Please send your resumé before July 31, 2003 to:

Total Corporate Network Inc.
1903-B West Tower
Philippine Stock Exchange Center
Exchange Road, Ortigas Centre, Pasig City
Attention: Ms. Michelle Urgena

Office of the President
BCDA
Bases Conversion Development Authority

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) invites interested Contractors to submit Application for Eligibility, and, if found eligible, to Bid subsequently for the Project stated below:

Contract Package Name and Location	Scope of Works	IAC Category and Classification	PCAB License Category	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)/Source of Funds	Project Duration
Improvement Works for the Proposed BCDA New Office at Bonifacio Technology Center and Old Officers' Clubhouse, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila	Improvement Works (Interior) for the Proposed BCDA New Office	At least Large "A" for Buildings	At least Category "AA"	P35.0M/ BCDA Corporate Funds	75 calendar days

Prospective Contractors should have completed a similar contract of at least 50% of the ABC of the Project for bidding within the last five (5)-years.

Applications for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria set forth in the Instructions to Applicants for Eligibility and to Bid. Only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by BCDA to participate in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the ABC shall be evaluated based on the contractor's offer for the contract under bidding, and shall be subject to detailed evaluation, and the bidder to Post-qualification before an award is made. Bid prices submitted higher than the ABC shall be rejected and returned outright.

For those interested, Application for Eligiblity and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance on **21-28 July 2003**, upon submission of the following documents:

1. Letter of Intent addressed to the Chairman, Bids and Award Committee-B (BAC-B);
2. Certified true copy of PCAB License;
3. Certified true copy of DTI or SEC Certificate of Registration;
4. Certified true copy of Mayor's permit/Municipal License;
5. Certified true copy of Taxpayer's Identification Number;
6. Statement that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by the CIAP; and
7. Certification, under oath, that each of the photocopied documents submitted is an original copy of a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original;

and payment of a non-refundable fee of **Pesos: Two Thousand and 00/100 (P2,000.00)** at the BCDA Corporate Centre, Gozar corner Lucas Streets, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City. Duly accomplished Application for Eligiblity and Eligibility Forms shall be submitted not later than 5:00 PM of **01 August 2003** at the address mentioned above.

Should you need any further information or clarification regarding the Project, you may get in touch with Mr. Samuel L. Vidallon or BAC-B Secretariat at tel. no. 551-30-06 up to 11.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. REGINA SALVE R. LAPUZ**
BAC-B Chairman

(PDI--July 15 & 23, 2003)

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PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF TUY (BATANGAS), INC. (RBTI)

1. By virtue of Monetary Board Resolution No. 603 dated April 14, 2000 ordering the closure of the Rural Bank of Tuy (Batangas), Inc., the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will start receiving and processing claims for payment of insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Tuy (Batangas), Inc. Depositors are requested to proceed to the Municipal Hall of Tuy, Batangas, where the duly authorized representatives of PDIC are stationed, to file claims for payment of insured deposits from July 24 to August 4, 2003. Depositors may also file their claims by mail addressed to-

   The Manager
   Claims Processing Department
   Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
   2228 Chino Roces Avenue
   1231 Makati City

   PDIC representatives shall service claims and entertain queries from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Mondays thru Fridays.

2. Depositors are advised to present the following documents to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims for insured deposits:

   a. Original evidence of deposit (i.e. savings passbook and certificate of time deposits).

   b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) with depositor's specimen signature.

   Other documents maybe required by the PDIC representatives in the course of claims processing.

3. Depositors of the closed Rural Bank of Tuy (Batangas), Inc. have 18 months from RBTI's re takeover by PDIC or up to November 19, 2004 to file their claims for payment of insured deposits. After November 19, 2004, PDIC as insurer shall no longer accept any claim for payment of insured deposits maintained with the subject bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI--July 22 & 23, 2003)

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-PSD 2003-005

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-PSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
DATE OF BIDDING: AUGUST 27, 2003; 9:00 AM			
5A1	OVERHEAD CRANE PARTS	3MBC03-0155(ZC)	P 1,320,000.00
5A2	PIPE EXPANSION JOINTS	3MBC03-0179(ZC)	P 1,758,000.00
5A3	ROTATING TERMINAL ASSEMBLY	3MBC03-0154(RP)	P 1,800,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: AUGUST 27, 2003; 2:00 PM			
5B1	PIPE EXPANSION JOINTS	3MGP03-0174(RP)	P 1,758,000.00
5B2	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR MAT'LS TOOLS EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICAL SUPERVISION FOR THE REHAB OF EXISTING WELLS AT PLANT D (2WELLS)	3MKD03-0171(ZC)	P 1,600,000.00
5B3	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR MAT'LS TOOLS EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICAL SUPERVISION FOR THE DRILLING OF ONE (1) WELL AND REHAB OF (1) WELL AT MAKBAN PLANT E	3MKE03-0172(ZC)	P 3,059,500.00
DATE OF BIDDING: AUGUST 28, 2003; 10:00 AM			
5C1	MECHANICAL SEAL TYPE AB4-KEF	3TPM03-015(RP)	P 1,500,000.00
5C2	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR MAT'LS TOOLS-EQUIPMENT AND SUPERVISION IN THE REPAINTING OF 230KV SWITCHYARD STRUCTURES OF TIWI GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANT A&C WITH ZINC GALVANIC ANTICORROSION PAINT	3TPM03-020(RP)	P 3,000,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: AUGUST 28, 2003; 2:00 PM			
5D1	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR MATERIALS TOOLS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPERVISION IN THE REPLACEMENT OF OUTDOOR INSTRUMENT AIR PIPINGS AND TUBINGS AT PLANT A, B & C	3TPM03-024(RP)	P 900,000.00
5D2	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENTS INCLUDING SUPERVISION IN THE REHAB OF 13.8KV TRANSMISSION AND COMMUNICATION LINES	3TPM03-004(RP)	P 2,500,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 1, 2003; 9:00 AM			
5E1	OVERHEAD GROUND WIRE HIRE STRENGTH GRADE 5000FT/REEL 3/8 OR 7/16 2-REEL INSULATORS TENSION/SUSPENSION	3TGP02-065(RP)	P 3,000,000.00
5E2	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MAT'LS AND EQUIPMENT IN THE REHAB OF VARIOUS VALVE ACTUATORS OF UNIT 1, 2, 3, 5 & 6	3TGP03-018(RP)	P 3,000,000.00
5E3	J.O.-REPAIR RECONDITIONING OF 15 UNITS COOLING WATER VALVES CV-7A AND 7B, CV-9 @ PLANT A & C	3TGP03-011(RP)	P 2,500,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 2, 2003; 9:00 AM			
5F1	BN MACHINERY DIAGNOTIC SYSTEM ADRE FOR WINDOWS SYSTEM PACKAGE	3BAC03-0249(RP)	P 7,803,348.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 2, 2003; 2:00 PM			
5G1	SPAREPARTS FOR NEUMAN & ESSER AIR COMPRESSORS OF BAC-MAN 1	3BAC03-0326(RP)	P 4,916,381.81
5G2	EMERGENCY TRIP MECHANISM, JOURNAL BEARING, HP OIL PRESSURE REGULATOR & EMERGENCY OIL RELIEF VALVE	3BAC03-0378(RP)	P 8,865,450.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 8, 2003; 9:00 AM			
5H1	ELECTROMATIC RELIEF VALVE ASSEMBLY, BRAND DRESSER	MCF/MS02-0649(JP)	P 3,600,000.00
5H2	PVC PIPES ELBOWS, TEES & COUPLINGS PIPES, ELBOWS, TEES, FLANGES & COUPLINGS	MCF/MS03-0241(JP) MCF/MS03-0242(JP)	P 720,440.00 P 683,500.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 8, 2003; 2:00 PM			
5I1	ROTARY LOBE BLOWER	MCF/MS03-0117(LS)	P 2,275,400.00
5I2	1-AMINO 4-METHYL PIPERADINE	MCF/CS03-0118(ZC)	P 1,560,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 9, 2003; 9:00 AM			
5J1	ELECTRONIC CARD (DC 125V BATTERY CHARGER)	5PG2-03-019(LS)	P 1,820,880.00
5J2	POSITIONER VALVES & RELAY ASSEMBLY	5PG1-03-041(LS)	P 1,216,100.00
5J3	POWER SUPPLY, TRANSIDYNE UNITS & AMPLIFIER	5PG2-03-026(LS)	P 2,355,300.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 9, 2003; 2:00 PM			
5K1	STEEL STRIP & PLATE FOR FABRICATION OF AIR HEATER ELEMENTS OF BCF	OOMR-03-008(JS)	P 7,945,500.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the bidding room for the following bidding schedules on:

5B2-5B3	AUGUST 12, 2003, 10:00 AM	5F1, 5G1 & 5G2	AUGUST 15, 2003, 2:00 PM
C2 5D1 & 5D2	AUGUST 12, 2003, 2:00 PM	5H1 & 5I1	AUGUST 21, 2003, 10:00 AM
5E1-5E3	AUGUST 15, 2003, 9:00 AM	5J3 & 5K1	AUGUST 21, 2003, 2:00 PM

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Services Division, Materials Management Dept. of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP 100.00 per schedule starting on July 21, 2003 issuance of eligibility and bid documents mornings only 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. No bid documents will be issued 7 days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, PSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration issued by former Genco Offices will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Executive Order 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit - One Percent (1%), Surety Bond Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids, and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
PSD-NPC

(PDI - July 15 & 23, 2003)

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JUANITA MARTINEZ MILLONADO VDA DE HOWELL

DIED: JULY 22, 2003 AT THE AGE OF 91

Her Bereaved Children:

ERLINDA MILLONADO VDA DE REYES
NELLIE & KIT SAMSON
ZENY & CHIT PINEDA
JOSE & MENCIE MILLONADO
NANCY & DODO CU-UNJIENG
NORMA JEAN HOWELL

request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie at Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish Broadway Street, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Friday, July 25, at San Juan Cemetery after the 9:00 A.M. Mass in Mt. Carmel Church.

"For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" Matthew 11:30

PILUCHI R. ZARAGOZA – CONDE

She carried all our burdens for us and lifted them all up to the Lord. She was our strength and our inspiration.

God received her into His loving embrace on the 21st of July, 2003 at the age of 51.

In loving memory, her bereaved daughters **TINA & MAITE**; sons-in-law **RIPP & TOM**; mother **PILAR**; brothers **LITO, RAMON & VINCI**; sisters **CHARINA, LOUDETTE & MARGA**; in-laws **MARIEN, LUCAS, YOGI, JAN-B & GERRY**; grandsons **MATEO & LUCAS**; nephews and nieces, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Chapel of Mary Help of Christians, Don Bosco Parish, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, July 24, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Funeral Mass at Don Bosco Parish Church.

Our Dearly Beloved Papa

CALVIN CHANG @ TIU KA BIN

Peacefully joined our Lord on 20th of July, 2003 at the age of 90.

He is survived by his son James and daughter-in-law Lily; daughters Dorothy, Helen, Sally, Jean; grandson and granddaughter; and other relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Manila, Chapel 2.

Cremation will be on Saturday, 26 July 2003 at 9:00 a.m. at the Chinese Crematory, Manila.

We, the family of the late

FRANCIS JOSEPH EDWARDS LITTAUA (†)

wish to express our profound gratitude
to the countless people
who were with us in our time of grief.

Words cannot adequately convey
how grateful we are
for all the generous help and loving support
extended to us during that very difficult time.

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone ...

May God bless you always.

Our Dearly Beloved

PRISCILA S. PECACHE

Peacefully joined her Creator on July 19, 2003 at the age of 79.

Her late husband **NARCISO** (†);
Children, in-laws, grandchildren:
NOEMI and **WILFREDO** – Nina Noreen, Wilfredo Jr., Nina Nonette
MYRNA and **PONCIANO** – Patrick, Margaret, Mark
CECILIA and **ROBERTO** – Rocelle, Robert Charles, Randall
EMMA and **GERARDO** – Gemma Lynne, Gerard, Geraldine
NAPOLEON and **DONDON** – Michael, Meryll
NERISSA
NELSON and **ELVIE** – Niel Eric, Natasha Elaine

Nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at No. 80 T. Delos Santos St., Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on July 24, 2003 at St. Margaret Memorial Park, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

EDUARDO ENCARNACION ELEGIR

Peacefully joined his Creator on July 22, 2003 at the age of 85.

His beloved spouse **Mary**; daughter **Jenny**, son-in-law **Cesar**; grandchildren, **Miren** and **Joaquin**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Antonio, Capilla de San Francisco, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 26, 2003, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

MAJ. EMIGDIO VENZON JOSÉ PC (RET.) 0-3343

PEFTOK 19TH BCT

OF
MALABON, RIZAL AND QUEZON CITY
Peacefully passed away at 3:08 p.m. on 21 July 2003
at the age of 82.

His wife Angela (†), children; grandchildren and great grandchildren solemnly join hands in unity to mourn his demise.

Sonny & Jovet José – Don Don, Scott, Annya, Nathalya, Miggy & grandchildren
Therese & Joe Tesorero – Mycah, Sigmund, Jay, Princess & grandchildren
Roly & Josephine José – Stephanie & Michelle (†)
Edmund & Estrelle José – Nicole, Kata, Jaron & Krizia
Raul & Bada José – Lizza, Paulo, Dwayne & Kim
Stepdaughters Lulu & Leoncio Figueroa, Baby & Virgilio Gonzales, Inday & Pablo Perez
Brother Pacifico (†), Sister Ramona and friends request for your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel Guadalupe, Makati
Necrological services will be on 25th July, Friday.
Interment will be on 26th July, Saturday 10:00 a.m. at the
Libingan ng mga Bayani Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

"For as in Adam all die, Even so in Christ shall all be made alive" — 1 Corinthian 15:22

"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even though he dies; and whoever believes in me will never die." **John 11:25-26**

FELIX FAYPON ABARQUEZ

of Vigan, Ilocos Sur and Quezon City

*Passed away in the Grace of Our Lord
on July 21, 2003 at the age of 88.*

His bereaved children & in-laws **Tess & Pylo Arvisu**, **Joseph & Mona Abarquez**, **Raymond Abarquez** & grandchildren **Catherine**, **Janine** & **Jocelle**; & other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at their Quezon City residence. Interment will be on Saturday, July 26, 2003 at La Loma Cemetery at 10 a.m.

BUAN ONG

Died at age 84

His loving wife **OGAY L. CHIU HWA**; children **JOHNNY ONG**, **MARY ROSEBUD ONG** and **PETER ONG**; daughters-in-law **BLESILDA** (wife of **Johnny**) and **EVANGELINE** (wife of **Peter**); grandchildren **Blaesius**, **Blecille**, **Brayniel**, **Braynee**, **Nelvin**, **Nichel**, **Paul**, **Patrick**, **Philip**; relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Evangelical Church, Camp Aguinaldo.

Mass will be held on July 25, 2003, 6PM at the Evangelical Church, Camp Aguinaldo.

Interment will be on July 26, 2003 at 1:30 PM at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

"... absent with the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:8

JONATHAN A. PAREDES

BORN: DECEMBER 20, 1967
PEACEFULLY JOINED HIS CREATOR
ON JULY 21, 2003.

His bereaved parents **Boy** and **Alice**; brothers, sisters and in-laws **Ding** and **Cristie**, **Jess** and **Clarice**, **Jonette**, **Jeffrey** and **Adon**, **Jerrold** and nephew and nieces **Christine Anne**, **Cassandra Nicole**, **Alexandra Carice**, **Jethro** & **Jessel**.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 26, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9:00 a.m. mass.

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside the still waters, He restores my soul. He guides me through the right paths for His name's sake. Although I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for you are beside me: your rod and staff comfort me. You spread a table before me in the presence of my foes, You anoint my head with oil; my cup is overflowing. Goodness and kindness will follow me all the days of my life, I shall dwell in the house of the Lord as long as I live." - *Psalm 23*

Dr. Vicente "Vicing" M. Santos

May 18, 1936 - July 20, 2003

Devoted husband to **Juliet**, beloved father to **Yvonne** and **Raul Mercado**, **Carol** and **Jayvee Enriquez**, **Mylene** and **Dan**, **Vic** and **Mary Anne**, **Rico** and **Carol**, **Don** and **Dorothy**, and **Robbie**, dear brother in-law to **Romeo** and **Landa**, **Vladimir** and **Josie**, **Annie** and **Ding**, **Agnes** (†) and **Ding**, **Bebot** and **Ditas**, **Eric** and **Jing** and **Nanette**.

and much loved lolo to **Jella**, **Vinci**, **Rocky**, **Arianna**, **Isabelle**, **Addie**, **Joseph**, **Raissa**, **Juliet**, **Angelo**, **Francis**, **Bianca**, **Teng**, **Bea**, **Julian**, **Andi**, **Chynna**, **Tara**, and **Skip**.

His remains lie in state at 7 CYO Street, Pag-asa Subdivision, Valenzuela City.

Interment will be on Saturday, the 26th of July, 2003 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8 AM Mass at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Valenzuela City.

His family and friends request pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

The Board of Trustees of Our Lady of Fatima University,
Fatima Medical Science Foundation, and
Fatima Medical Center

expresses deep sorrow for the demise of their first University President and Medical Director

DR. VICENTE M. SANTOS

who died during the Consecration of the Holy Eucharist on the 20th of July, 2003

His remains lie in state at 7 CYO Street, Pag-asa Subdivision, Valenzuela City (behind the National Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima).

Interment will be on Saturday, the 26th of July, 2003 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8 AM Mass at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima.

SOLEDAD NEPOMUCENO DE JESUS

Joined her Creator on July 21, 2003
at the age of 80.

Her bereaved husband **Liberato**; children **Cynthia** and **Rey**, **Raul** and **Jenny**; grandchildren **Carol**, **Jun-Jun**, **Reret**, **Mia** and **Gabriel** (†), and her sister **Puring** request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie at the family residence at #24 Paterio Aquino Ave., Tonsuya, Malabon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, July 24, 2003 at San Bartolome Catholic Cemetery after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at the Parish Church.

Our Dearly Beloved

VICTOR "Dong" L. DAVID

1944-2003

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 20th of July, 2003 at the age of 58.

His loving wife **Nitz Tablante**,
children **Kathryn, Claudine, Kenneth** and **Christian**,
his loving brothers and sisters **Aida & Rustico Coronel**,
Eloisa & Dan (†) **Sarmiento, Irmelo & Zenaida**,
Sis. Eloisa O.S.B., Wilfrido & Josefina, Roy (†) **& Edna**,
Alma & Napoleon, Jesus & Raquel,
nieces, nephews and in-laws, relatives, colleagues and friends
request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the House of Many Mansions
Angeles City, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 26, 2003
at the Holy Mary Memorial Park
after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Rosary Parish Church,
Angeles City, Pampanga.

(Please omit flowers)

John 14: 1-4

"__Do not be worried and upset.__" Jesus told them: "Believe" in GOD and believe also in me. There are many rooms in my father's house and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so. And after I go and prepare a place for you. I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am. You know the way that leads to the place where I am going."

ROSARIO ALTOVEROS ALARILLA

Born on March 20, 1904,
and a caring mother 'till the age of 99,
peacefully joined our Lord at 3:00 a.m. on July 22, 2003

Her Loving Children:

Mayor EDDIE ALARILLA (Meycauayan, Bulacan) and **JOAN VELASCO ALARILLA** and grandchildren **MANNY, EDUARDO JR.** and **JUDY**
LOURDES ALARILLA
MAXIMO and **CAROLINA**
CATALINA and **EUSTAQUIO**
PRIMITIVA and **GERRY**
ERNESTO and **EVELYN**
RENATO and **OFELIA**

great grandchildren and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at MAYOR ALARILLA's residence at Bgy. Bancal, Meycauayan, Bulacan.

Interment will be at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 26, 2003, at Sta. Ana Memorial Park, Bancal, Meycauayan after a necrological Mass starting at 1:00 p.m.

CLASSIFIEDS

1. **Car:** Nissan
   Make: Cefiro (Infinity Look)
   Model: 1997
   Color: Black
   Mileage: 24,594 km.
   P520,000.00
2. **Car:** Chevrolet
   Make: Silverado 4WD
   Model: 2000
   Color: Black
   Mileage: 17,079 km.
   P780,000.00
3. **Car:** Ford
   Make: Explorer 4WD
   Model: 2001
   Color: Green
   Mileage: 10,000 km
   P1,080,000.00

Contact person: Jeannette Cabalu
Telephone #925-7104 or 925-6716
Cellphone #09178490089

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1) Honda Accord, black, 97 model, plate ending 1, 50,000 kms., price: P480,000.
2) Terrano, red, 97 model, plate ending 9, 51,000 kms., price: P490,000.

Please call **823-2627; 917-323-0637.**

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Bldg. #3 San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue,
Sta. Cruz, Manila, Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 7438301; Fax No. 743-7236
E-mail Address: www.doh.gov.ph

21 July 2003

RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
IFB No. 2003-8-12 (19)

The Department of Health hereby invites sealed bids from interested bidders to provide ***Janitorial Services*** to the DOH Central Office for the year 2003.

A complete set of bidding documents may be obtained by interested eligible bidders upon submission of Letter of Intent and valid Mayor's Permit upon payment of ***non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (PhP2,000.00)*** only from the Procurement and Logistics Service, Bldg. No. 26 from __July 28 to August 8, 2003__, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held on __July 31, 2003 at 9:30 a.m.,__ DOH Library, G/F, Bldg. #12-A, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Bids must be submitted to the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) at the HHRDB Conference Room, 3/F, Bldg. #12-A, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, not later than __9:30 a.m. on August 12, 2003.__ The Bid Security shall be in an amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check (1%), and Bank Guarantee (1-1/2%) confirmed by a reputable local bank.

The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds to the Department of Health.

The Approved Budget Cost for this requirement is Sixteen Million Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP16,200,000.00)

By authority of the Secretary of Health:

(Sgd.) **ALEXANDER A. PADILLA**
Undersecretary of Health
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–July 23 & 30, 2003)

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 1
SAN JUAN, LA UNION 2514
Tel. Nos. (072)242-5909/10 Fax: (072)242-5908

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) Region 1**, through its Bid and Award Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the Repair Roof replacement of Warehouse No. 2 at Barangay Carmay, Rosales, Pangasinan. Scope of works for the said repair works shall not be limited to the following:

1. Dismantling/piling of damaged roofings, flashing, gutters, ridge roll, and downspout, etc.
2. Chipping and removal of existing steel casement windows;
3. Installation of new pre-painted ordinary corr. roofings sheet, skylights, flashing, gutter, ridge roll;
4. Installation of 6" PVC Pipe for center gutter and 4" PVC for front and side elevations;
5. Repair of continous ridge ventilation;
6. Conversion of steel Casement windows into concrete louver windows with screen on both sides on aluminum frame (Note "6 units existing steel casement window to be replaced by 6" chb).
7. Repair and conversation of three (3) units steel doors to steel folded door;
8. Provision of three (3) units steel screen doors;
9. Repainting of all steel structures (columns, trusses, rafters, purlins, etc.) one (1) red oxide and two (2) coats aluminum;
10. Repainting of all concrete structures two (2) coats (one coat flat, one coat semi-gloss);
11. Repair and rewiring of electrical system;
12. Repair of drainage system;
13. Cleaning and clearing of site.

SCHEDULE OF PRE-QUALIFICATION AND BIDDING

Issuance of RES Form	-	August 6, 2003 (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM)
Submission of Accomplished RES Form	-	August 11-12, 2003 (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM)
Issuance of Bidding Documents to Eligible Contractors	-	August 21, 2003 (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM)
Pre-Bidding Conference	-	August 27, 2003 (10:00 AM)
Submission and Opening of Bids	-	September 10, 2003 (10:00 AM)

Contractor's Category MEDIUM "A" or higher
for Building and Industrial Plant
Appropriated Plant
Appropriated Budget P 5,500,000.00
Completion of the project 120 Calendar days

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bidding Conference (s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification of the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bids and Award of Contract shall governed by the provisions of P.D. 5194 and E.O. 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), as amended and other applicable rules and regulations.

Request for Eligibility Screening (RES Form) may be secured and submitted at NFA-RBAC Secretariat 2nd Floor, Regional Office, San Juan, La Union upon presentation of Letter of Intent, updated PCAB/IAC License (Original) and payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00.

Plans and Specifications and Bidding documents, shall be issued to Eligible contractors/bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of P2,000.00.

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect or formally, assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify to the bidder for any expenses or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bid and accept offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **VICTORIANO Q. MOLINA**
Asst. Regional Director
Chairman, NFA-RPBAC

(PDI - July 23 & 30, 2003)

The Early Childhood Development Project is in need of:

One (1) Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist

Qualification Requirement:

1. Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Commerce or other related fields;
2. graduate of Masteral Degree on Public Administration or Management or other related fields, preferred;
3. At least three (3) years consultancy/managerial experience in project management particularly in monitoring and evaluation;
4. Must be able to render services on a full time basis; and
5. Proficient in oral and written communication.

Please send application letter and resumé on or before 31 July 2003 addressed to:

The Administrative Service Director
Department of Social Welfare and Development
2nd Floor, Administraive Service
DSWD Central Office Building
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
or at E-mail Address: __ecd.admin@dswd.gov.ph__

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
860 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Metro Manila 1103
Tel. Nos. 372-50-57 • 372-50-42
Fax Nos. 372-50-48 • 372-50-61

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR), invites qualified bidders/suppliers to participate in the bidding of the following items:

ITEM/S TO BID:

65	sets	Windows Vertical Blinds
	–	Various Local Area Networking Supplies & Materials
1	unit	Laboratory Center Table with Sink
1	unit	Laboratory Side Table with Sink
2	units	Tall Case
1	unit	Standby Generator
3	units	Uninterrupted Power supply

Bid form together with complete specifications may be obtained from Property Section.

Sealed bids will be received and open at the BFAR, Conference Room, Quezon City not later than 2:00 AM on **Aug. 08, 2003.**

Interested bidder are required to submit the following requirements upon securing bidding forms: Photo copies of Business License, Certification Registration/DTI, latest audited Financial Statement, latest Income Tax Return (Original copies to be shown for authentication purposes).

This office reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the PBAC is the most advantageous to the government. The PBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.**
Director

(PDI–July 23, 2003)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF BALAYAN (BATANGAS), INC. (RBBI)

1. By virtue of Monetary Board Resolution No. 650 dated April 27, 2000 ordering the closure of the Rural Bank of Balayan (Batangas), Inc., the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will start receiving and processing claims for payment of insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Balayan (Batangas), Inc. Depositors are requested to proceed to the Municipal Hall of Balayan, Batangas, where the duly authorized representatives of PDIC are stationed, to file claims for payment of insured deposits from July 24 to August 4, 2003. Depositors may also file their claims by mail addressed to-

   The Manager
   Claims Processing Department
   Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
   2228 Chino Roces Avenue
   1231 Makati City

   PDIC representatives shall service claims and entertain queries from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Mondays thru Fridays.

2. Depositors are advised to present the following documents to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims for insured deposits:

   a. Original evidence of deposit (i.e. savings passbook and certificate of time deposits).

   b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) with depositor's specimen signature.

   Other documents maybe required by the PDIC representatives in the course of claims processing.

3. Depositors of the closed Rural Bank of Balayan (Batangas), Inc. have 18 months from RBBI's re takeover by PDIC or up to December 10, 2004 to file their claims for payment of insured deposits. After December 10, 2004, PDIC as insurer shall no longer accept any claim for payment of insured deposits maintained with the subject bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI–July 22 & 23, 2003)

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Globe Handyphone's magical Independence Day treat

THE LONG Independence Day weekend was a good chance for the whole family to do something together before school started officially. Being so, Globe Handyphone made sure that this year's celebration at The Fort treated moms, dads, and kids to an entire afternoon of wholesome family fun capped with a spectacular fireworks display.

Hundreds of families converged to watch an enchanting magic show by magician Chris O., who mesmerized kids and parents alike with his incredible sleight of hand tricks. With a wave of his hand, he created doves out of thin air and pieced back together newspaper that he had previously ripped to shreds. His incredible performance deserved the thunderous applause he got from the audience.

Next was a dog show headlined by cunning canines from trainer Randy Macalma's Nation Dog School that truly entertained kids and kids-at-heart. Spectators were tickled pink as they watched poodles doing the hula and the tinikling. The show also taught the audience easy tricks they could teach their pets.

Another crowd-drawer was the Globe Booth, which offered yet another fantastic phone deal: Globe's Twin Package. This new promo allows a person to get a FREE Nokia 3530 just by referring another to get a Nokia 3530 at Plan 500. That's not all, the referee will also get an additional discount of P1000 for his Nokia 3530. For existing Globe subscribers who want to get another line, they can get the Nokia 3530 free at any G plan.

"We know that people nowadays want to have affordable MMS phones, it's with that in mind that we came up with Globe's Twin Package Promo, to give our valued subscribers connectivity to the next level of communication, MMS," said Joanna Africa, Globe postpaid manager.

Nearby, kids had a blast playing fun games and winning prizes from their favorite cartoons, while Off-road enthusiasts displayed their monster trucks and jeeps at the nearby Manila Off-Roaders Inc. exhibit.

Pido and Take One provided the musical energy to keep the festive, family atmosphere going. But what was truly the centerpiece of the afternoon's affair was the fireworks competition, where five fireworks teams were each given a chance to dazzle spectators with their pyrotechnic expertise, plus a chance to win P25,000.

Spellbound spectators marveled as a palette of colors exploded all around them. But more than the lightshow, it was the sight of families bonding, spending together that drew the awe of event principal sponsor, Globe. "We just really wanted an event that would allow families to spend time together and connect. Seeing little boys and girls sitting happily on their dad's shoulders to enjoy our shows makes us really happy to have done our job," said Globe's MJ Hyndman, head merchandising-logistics and events corporate marketing.

Independence Day 2003 ended with a bang literally and figuratively. Families went home with a new level of connectivity and an indelible smile written on their faces.

SPECTATORS watch the stunning fireworks display from an array of off-road vehicles.

RANDY Macalma's trained miniature poodles Sam and Marco wow the crowd with their hula dancing.

GLOBE'S MJ Hyndman and Police Superintendent Elmer Beltejor at the Globe's Independence Day Fireworks Festival.

MAGICIAN Chris O dazzled the crowd with his bag of magic tricks.

GLOBELINES OPENS PAYMENT, SERVICES CENTER IN MEGAMALL

Globe Telecom's landline telephone service, Globelines, recently inaugurated its Globelines Payment and Services (GPS) center in SM Megamall. Located at the Cyberzone Area, 4th level of SM Megamall Building B, the center accepts bills payments, application, reconnection, repair requests, and inquiries. It also serves as a call cards distribution channel for Globelines prepaid subscribers. Shown (from left) are Globe Telecom wireline centers head Tina Ortiz, Coca-Cola IT specialist Marlon Magsino, Mandaluyong Councilor Chery Lynn Pablo-Santos, Globe Telecom wireline voice sales and marketing head Ramon Antonio Pineda, Mandaluyong Councilor Teresita Pillas, Fr. Montecarlo Viloria and FedEx vice president for operations Reuben Pangan.

Free Gentxt membership via 2277

FROM June 28 to July 31, all Globe Handyphone subscribers may apply for Gentxt membership for FREE via text. Aside from privileges such as discounts, entrance to sports and other events, Gentxters also receive a free ringtone or icon every month.

According to Gentxt brand manager Chooey Velayo, "This service allows Globe Handyphone subscribers to enjoy all the benefits of being a Gentxter in a flash. There are no fees or forms. As a Gentxter you gain access to exclusive movie screenings, parties and sports events, as well as discounts at participating dining, leisure and shopping establishments."

And it's so easy to become a Gentxter. Just send the key word JOIN to 2277. Upon completion of application, you will receive a text message confirming your membership. You can use this text message to avail yourself of Gentxt privileges until your Gentxt card arrives. Gentxt membership is valid as long as you remain a Globe Handyphone subscriber.

Find out what it's like to "B 1 of us". Register through text now.

Give in to your cookie craving

FEW CAN resist a delectably sweet, chocolate cookie treat-especially when it's free.

Globe Cookie Cravings lets you satisfy your sweet tooth's hankering for cookies, while keeping you connected to your loved ones. From July 6 to Aug. 31, each purchase of a Globe Hi-Memory SIM now at just P200 entitles you to a free 160g Chips Ahoy and 300g Oreo cookies in a specially designed Globe tin can.

To get your free cookie indulgence, just make an initial charged phone call using your new Globe Hi-Memory SIM Card. Wait for an SMS message from 2977, which will serve as your redemption stub when you claim your cookie treat at any Mercury Drugstore nationwide.

Globe Hi-Memory SIM has a 300 phone book memory that lets you list down the names of your colleagues and loved ones. While its capacity to store 65 text messages allows you to read and re-read their heart-warming text messages.

Only Globe comes out with promos that bring out a smile from the heart. So what are you waiting for? Give in to your cookie craving by getting a Globe Hi-memory SIM from the business center or Hub and get Globe connected now!

How to transact at ATMs safely

IN SUPPORT of Depositor's Protection Week recently, BancNet reissued reminders to its cardholders on the proper way of making transactions at the Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) as well as the safe-keeping of the ATM card and the Personal Identification Number (PIN).

This consumer education campaign is carried out through posters and leaflets placed inside the ATM booths, which call attention to very important ATM safety tips.

Cardholders are advised to treat their ATM card as cash so it should be kept safe always. They should also memorize their PIN and not write it down anywhere nor divulge it to anyone, not even to close family members and friends. Cardholders are also advised that while transacting, they should cover the ATM keypad and monitor to prevent other people around them from seeing their PIN and other account information. After withdrawing cash, they should not forget to get their card and transaction slip and they should keep their money immediately. If their card is stolen or lost, if it is stuck or captured in the ATM or if they encounter any related problem, cardholders should not seek help from strangers but instead, they should get assistance only from the bank personnel or security guard. They should also report the problem to their depository bank or ATM Center, the telephone number of which is provided in the poster.

To further strengthen the security of cardholders in the ATM booth, secret surveillance cameras were installed in places where the BancNet ATMs do not have built-in cameras.

The cameras are activated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and they provide time-stamped recording of all persons who enter the booth at all times and whatever they are doing inside. So far, these cameras have been effective in preventing vandalism and other anomalous or criminal acts.

According to Aris Zafra, BancNet's chief operating officer, "the company regularly conducts seminars to update the employees of member banks on the latest modus operandi of unscrupulous individuals and to train them on the security measures which all member banks are mandated to implement for cardholders' protection."

BancNet is the largest ATM consortium with 32 member banks and over 1,700 ATMs nationwide.

ANA C2C'S SILKY SMOOTH PROOF

Ana Capri, right, shows off white and newly smoothened skin after her special skin whitening treatment at C2C Face & Body Works. Cathy Valencia, left, her skin specialist and owner of C2C, sees Ana's endorsement as silky smooth proof of C2C's commitment to a better face and body. And with aesthetic surgeon Elvis Verzo MD as consultant, the commitment is more than skin deep. Visit C2C Face & Body Works at 1412 Medical Plaza Building, Amorsolo Street, Legazpi Village, Makati or call 751-3990 for an appointment.

Pinoys among top immigrants

CANADA continues to be a favorite destination for Filipino immigrants. In 2002, close to 11,000 Filipinos resettled in this country, making the Philippines the fourth largest source country for immigrants to Canada. This ranking has held up through the first quarter of 2003 with the arrival of close to 2,000 Filipino immigrants. An estimated 400,000 Filipinos now live in Canada. This was relayed by lawyer Bayani F. Abesamis, a Canadian immigration lawyer. he quality of life offered by Canada, which has been consistently ranked among the best in the world by the United Nations Development Agency, is an attraction many Filipinos find hard to pass up. In 2002, Canada welcomed close to 230,000 new immigrants from all oevr the world. Abesamis is currently conducting seminars on the new independent immigration selection system until July 28 in Makati City. He will also be available for consultation during this time. For more information, call 814-0709 or 813-3482.

Cultivating the right franchise business mindset and skills

THE HOMEGROWN franchising industry is poised to become a major moneymaker with the potential to break into the international scene. A Philippines where Davids capture a big slice of the market once dominated by Goliaths is in the offing. Fueling the entrepreneurial fervor and domestic franchising frenzy is the inherent flexibility, passion and drive of this rare breed of small entrepreneurs. But going the franchising route, more than business acumen, requires long-term commitment and a responsible, systematic approach-preferably learned from the experts.

Franchise applicants and prospects will get the entire picture of the franchising process when the 2nd Filipino Franchise Show unfolds from July 25 to 27 at the Megatrade Hall 2, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Relevant seminars are slated on July 27, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., featuring industry professionals who will share practical insights and tactics to make the franchising investment start on the right footing and yield desired returns. Topics for discussion include "Understanding the Basic Framework of a Franchise," "Benefits and Risks of Franchising," plus other essential concerns, notably the importance of a franchising track record, the franchisor-franchisee relationship and obligations, franchise financial packages, and franchise offering presentations.

Seminar speakers include Philippine franchising guru Armando O. Bartolome and wife Lyndah, president and managing director, respectively, of GMB Franchise Developers. A charter member of the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc (AFFI) and the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA), GMB Franchise Developers actively assists homegrown companies expand locally and abroad. It has advanced the concept of entrepreneurial counseling over the years and guided small and medium-scale franchise ventures on the right track.

Also joining the forum are franchise lawyer Michael Chavez, who will tackle local legal aspects, and market analyst Brad Geiser of Geiser Maclang Communications Inc. (GMCI), who will expound on why public relations is an essential tool for brand development in small and medium enterprises (SMEs). GMCI is the Philippines' first research-based public relations provider, and provides high-impact media exposure and user-friendly market research at reasonable rates, among other services.

The 2nd Filipino Franchise Show is a major annual activity of the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc., which strives to spread word that franchising and entrepreneurship should be professional. As AFFI president Chit Juan said, "When you grow your business by franchising, it is important to follow the tenets of being a responsible franchiser." For seminar reservations, inquiries and other details, call 532-8386, look for Josel, or 813-5836 or 892-9535, and look for Janice.

ProductFILES

Tiki Tiki Plus bags vitamin award

UNITED American Tiki Tiki Plus (UATT Plus) has recently been awarded by the National Consumers Affair Foundation as the Top Children's Vitamin Brand for 2003.

The decision was based on an open public nomination followed by a series of consumer surveys and research.

From a humble cure for beri-beri 50 years ago, Tiki Tiki Plus is now living its vision of becoming the most trusted multivitamin brand for infants. Its long-time leadership in the vitamin drops market and unwavering service to the health of the Filipino baby truly makes Tiki Tiki Plus deserving of such an award.

United American Tiki Tiki Plus is manufactured by Unilab.

UNITED AMERICAN
TIKI-TIKI plus
FOOD SUPPLEMENT DROPS
GIVES ALL THE ESSENTIAL VITAMINS

HONG KONG JOB MARKET
A journalist, left, interviews a job seeker at labor department job center in Hong Kong. Unemployment in Hong Kong rose to a record 8.6 percent as the SARS outbreak battered an already weak economy, bankrupting many businesses and forcing others to scale back, officials said Thursday. Some 300,000 people were out of work during the three months ending June 30, and officials warned the situation was not likely to get better any time soon. AP

INDONESIAN JOB MARKET
Job seekers queue up outside the building holding job exhibition in Jakarta. Indonesian's high unemployment is the most worrying manpower issues in Southeast Asia, not only gives rise to economic problems but also has a wide impact in the social, security and political fields. In Indonesia unemployment rose to 8.4 million in the first half of last year and an estimated 25 million more had only part-time work. AFP

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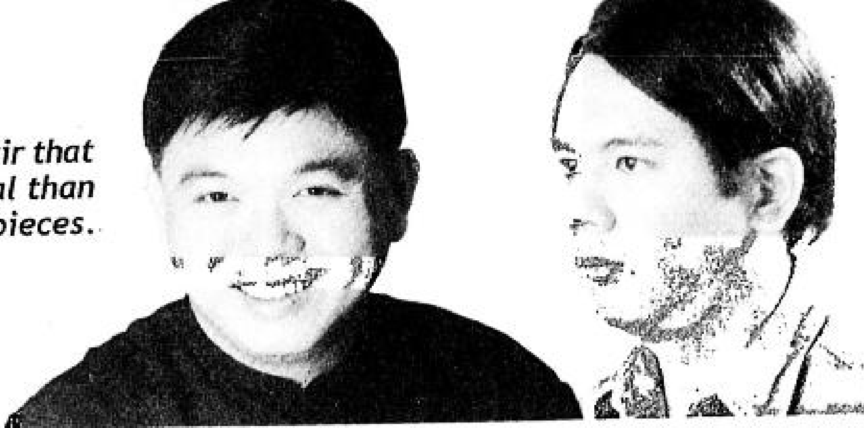

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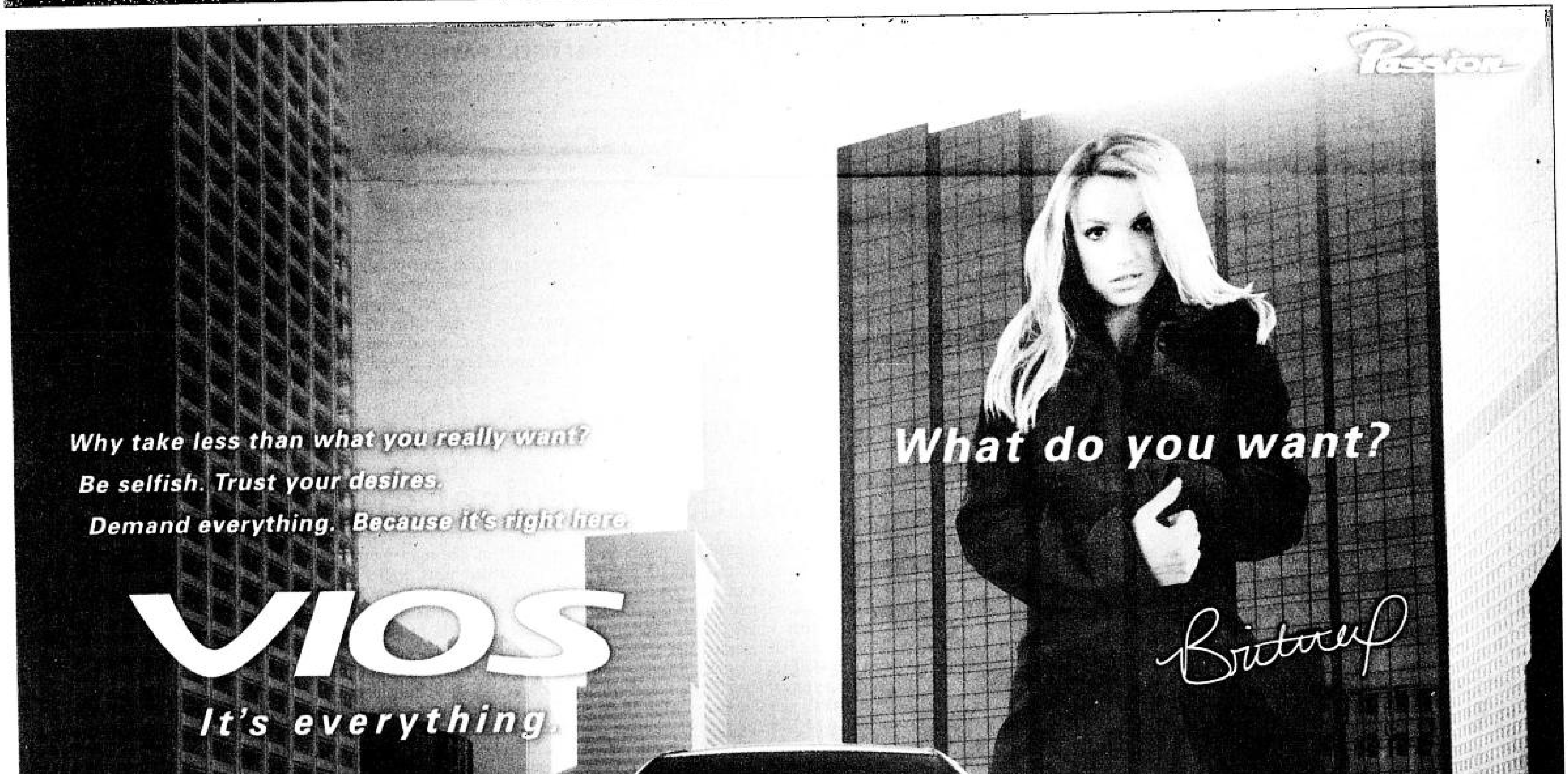
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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

Merienda muna...

2BU! THERMOMETER

People are talking about . . .

Our roving radar checks out what's hot and what's cold in the pop-culture landscape

SUSHI-YA'S bag hangers under their tables. It may seem shallow, but hey, beats eating with your bag on your lap or constantly checking it every five seconds.

THE END may be near for "Friends," but maybe not for Joey Tribbiani. Talks are reportedly underway among NBC, Warner Bros. TV and actor Matt LeBlanc for a spin-off sitcom revolving around LeBlanc's character. He just earned his second consecutive Emmy nomination for his work on "Friends" last week.

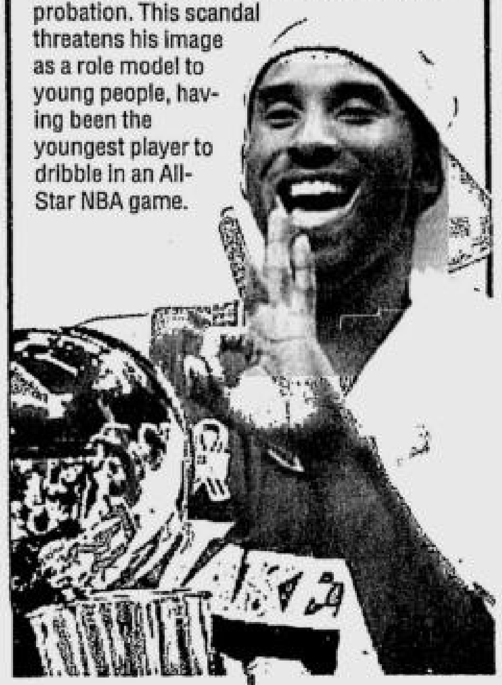
HAPPY Feet sandals. Our moms and aunts loved them, and now we have the chance to love them too. Happy Feet sandals come with interchangeable straps to match your outfits.

G.I. Joe. The prototype of the original all-American hero failed to sell at an auction. Before the bidding, industry insiders had expected the toy to sell at a historic price at a minimum bid of $600,000. However, it failed miserably to interest the approximately 30 people who attended the auction at the Comic-Con International convention.

THE NESCAFÉ ad. We're still buzzing about the dorm where every woman and gay man would love to spend a night in. Rumor has it that it's actually a seminary.

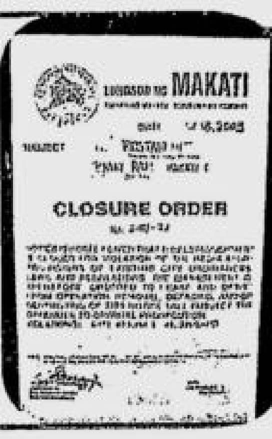
BANNED e-mail. There is no e-mail in France. The French Culture Ministry has banned the use of "e-mail" in all government ministries, documents, publications or websites. Replacing the word is "courriel," a shortened version of "courrier electronique" (electronic mail). The move just goes to show how France is way too protective of its language. The ministry is opposing the entry of English words into the French lexicon.

MADONNA'S Gap. This time it's not her teeth. Clothing giant Gap is adding Madonna to its roster of celebrity endorsers. Missy Elliott will also be among the new models for the advertising campaign that will kick off later this month.



KOBE Bryant. Admitting that he committed the "mistake of adultery," the NBA superstar was nevertheless charged last Friday with sexually assaulting a 19-year-old woman. If convicted, he could face four years to life in prison, or 20 years to life on probation. This scandal threatens his image as a role model to young people, having been the youngest player to dribble in an All-Star NBA game.

THE CLOSING of Restaurant 12 in Greenbelt. We're happy with the no-smoking ordinance, but shutting down restaurants without due process is just not cool. Bars are not guinea pigs. They're places where people want to hang out—and thus generate much-needed commerce for the community.



LUNGSOD NG MAKATI

CLOSURE ORDER

MISSION X. Their show last Tuesday featured dog-eating once again... with the reporter saying, *"Ang pinakmabigat na tanong ay, ligtas ba kainin ang mga ito?"* Earth-shattering. And where was the Animal Welfare Act?

EXPRESS ADVICE

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CROSS STITCH. Robby Mananquil in Ramil Noveda. Cross by Arnel Papa

NEO-VINTAGE take on fashion

CHINOISE CHIC. Girlie Benitez's penetrating stare

BOY WONDER. Eddie Mendez's show biz crossover

MANNEQUIN, TOO. Antoinette Ocampo off guard

MODEL'S MODEL. Rissa Samson, PMAP's sexy prexy

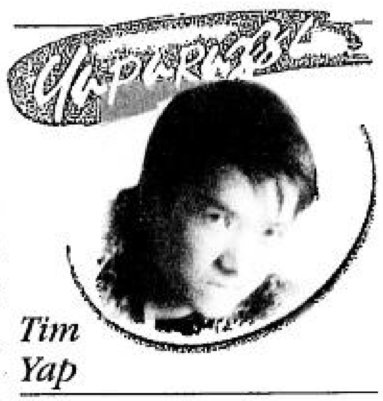
SNEAK PEEK. Ton Lao in Vic Barba sportswear

FRESH TWIST. Bianca Valerio's timeless gaze

ACE MAN. Dos Quong, side view, full fashion

PHOTOS TIM YAP

A Preview of style



Tim Yap

THIS month's fashion-packed gathering took place at Le Pavilion, where scenesters and style shakers paid homage to their bible—Preview magazine. The iconic rag threw its now-annual society bash to welcome the old, the new and the now of fashion's prized lot.

A fashion fight parade ensued, with guests in their "neo-vintage" formal best competing with the designer-frocked flock of PMAP (Professional Models Association of the Philippines) models that romped the ramp in FDCP (That's Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines) threads—the same duds that gained prominence in Shanghai, pre SARS.

Again, kudos to **Randy Ortiz** and company for waving our flag, "Shang-high!" This page exhibits my backstage snapshots in-between my hosting jams with muse-with-the-most, **Pia Guanio.**

Offstage, I roamed around, asking partyphiles style queries—the who, what, when and why of their fashion consciousness.

From the 20-year-old Yohji tie of Alliance Francaise's **Philippe Normand, Tina Tinio**'s lavender Azabache and turquoise Chanel gloves (all from mom **Mary Ann**) to **Rissa Samson**'s origami-inspired gown which was passed on to her by mom **Millet** (it was in turn given to her by a Karilagan model, the PMAP of her time), the scene was one "nostalgia-meets-modern-sensibility"—filled homage to style.

Other standouts were **Joan Bitagcol**, who wore something she picked up from the Bambang second-hand market. Which goes to show that style does NOT come with a price tag.

Cecille Ysmael, on the other hand, wore iconic mom-in-law **Chona Kasten**'s beaded top.

The bodacious went for up-and-coming design stars **Joey Samson, Louie Claparols, LZ Punzalan, Ivarluski Aseron** and **Kate Torralba**, also one of the 25 style setters featured in the mag.

A high point of my night was when I interviewed some lady who claimed she was 98 years old and was the original designer of Diana Ross! Now how's that for vintage class?

Other fashion statements came in the form of bandannas, as exhibited by **Celine Lopez** and **Angel Jacob** in pixie and pirate looks, respectively. Jewelmer decked the girls in proud pearls that surely cost more than the whole event.

Still others wore attitude to the hilt, with reigning royalty **Tessa Prieto-Valdes** arriving as an 18th-century vampire! Cuz' **Leica Carpo** arrived from the future in a shiny white take on the new androgyny.

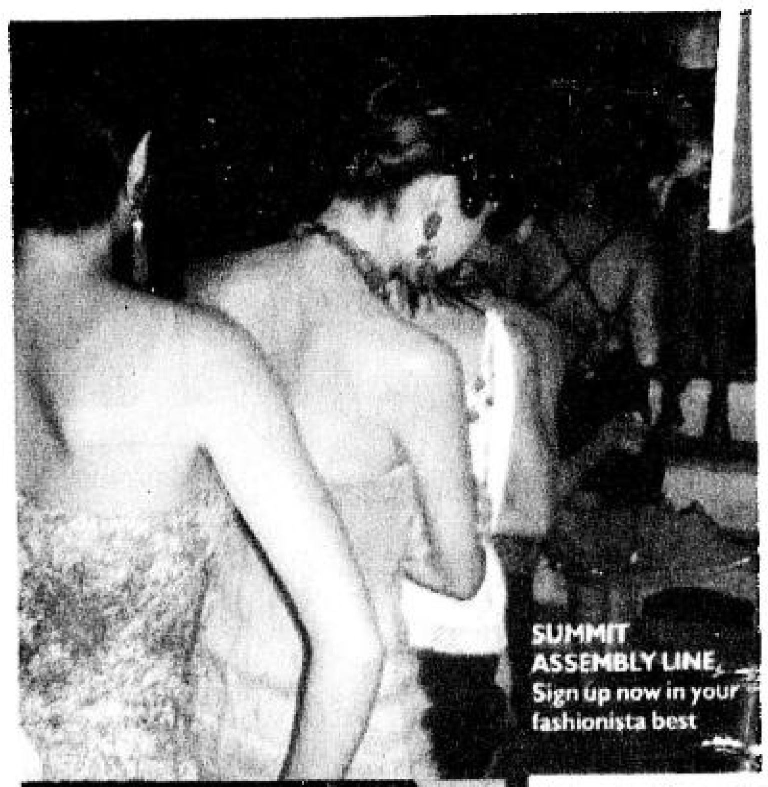
The best soundbite about it all came from my favorite fashion writer **Gino dela Paz:** "The best rule is to break the rules!"

Preview ed-in-chief **Pauline Suaco-Juan** and her übersavvy and stylish staff must pat each other in the back. Not only did they bring Preview to greater heights, they also came up with an event that brought the mag's pages to life!

Ab (for Absinth) fab cocktails, hotter-than-hot people; a show that makes you proud to be a chronicler of Pinoy style files, and a community of fashion lovers who are open to and accepting of change—cheers to this generation's avant-guardians!

Indeed, I can't believe it's been eight years since I approached then editor-in-chief **Leah Puyat** and fashion editor **Myrza Sison** at the Mandarin and told them, "I really love your magazine!" I carried on like a long-lost fan after reading the very first issue, with **Tweetie De Leon** on the cover.

This month, the mag has 25 incarnations of what modern style is all about. I loved it then, I still love it now.



SUMMIT ASSEMBLY LINE. Sign up now in your fashionista best

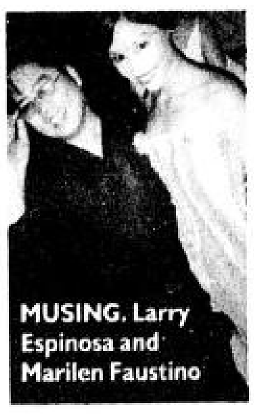
GODDESSES. Pia Guanio, host of "Breakfast" on Studio 23, with Preview ed-in-chief, the style-setting Pauline Suaco in LZ Punzalan

FASHION FRIENDSHIP. [illegible] Parma and Wilma Doesnt

[illegible]

F(ASHION)4. Brian Tan in RCXY Bautista

HAIR DO! Grace Tagle before the show



MUSING. Larry Espinosa and Marilen Faustino

SHANG HIGH. Raya Mananquil and Nicolette Bell

DESIGNER DON. Eazel with Ivarluski Aseron

NEO-VINTAGE ONSTAGE. Kate Torralba, Carmina Sanchez and Celine Lopez on the fashion front.

Be Part of the Challenge!

As we put the best IT skills to the test!

Watch as the best and brightest students from all over the country put their programming skills to the test for a chance to win over **P800,000** in cash and other exciting prizes!

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Games & Raffle Draw

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Keynote Speaker: Sen. Francis N. Pangilinan, Jr.

Entertainment to be provided by Live Wire

The Wireless Challenge is organized by the European IT Service Center (EITSC), in collaboration with the German Technical Cooperation. (GTZ), and implemented by the Philippine Internet Commerce Society (PICS).

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For more information, visit
www.wirelesschallenge.com.ph or
the online forum at www.msdn.ph/forums.

Call: 8975011-14, look for Melanie.

www.wirelesschallenge.com

CROSS STITCH. Robby Mananquil in Ramil Noveda. Cross by Arnel Papa

NEO-VINTAGE take on fashion

CHINOISE CHIC. Girlie Benitez's penetrating stare

BOY WONDER. Eddie Mendez's show biz crossover

MANNEQUIN, TOO. Antoinette Ocampo off guard

MODEL'S MODEL. Rissa Samson, PMAP's sexy prexy

SNEAK PEEK. Ton Lao in Vic Barba sportswear

FRESH TWIST. Bianca Valerio's timeless gaze

ACE MAN. Dos Quong, side view, full fashion

PHOTOS: TIM YAP

A Preview of style

Tim Yap

THIS month's fashion-packed gathering took place at Le Pavillion, where scenesters and style shakers paid homage to their bible—Preview magazine. The iconic rag threw its now-annual society bash to welcome the old, the new and the now of fashion's prized lot.

A fashion fight parade ensued, with guests in their "neo-vintage" formal best competing with the designer-frocked flock of PMAP (Professional Models Association of the Philippines) models that romped the ramp in FDCP (That's Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines) threads—the same duds that gained prominence in Shanghai, pre SARS.

Again, kudos to **Randy Ortiz** and company for waving our flag, "Shang-high!" This page exhibits my backstage snapshots in-between my hosting jams with muse-with-the-most, **Pia Guanio.**

Offstage, I roamed around, asking partyphiles style queries—the who, what, when and why of their fashion consciousness.

From the 20-year-old Yohji tie of Alliance Francaise's **Philippe Normand, Tina Tinio**'s lavender Azabache and turquoise Chanel gloves (all from mom **Mary Ann**) to **Rissa Samson**'s origami-inspired gown which was passed on to her by mom **Millet** (it was in turn given to her by a Karilagan model, the PMAP of her time), the scene was one "nostalgia-meets-modern-sensibility"—filled homage to style.

Other standouts were **Joan Bitagcol**, who wore something she picked up from the Bambang second-hand market. Which goes to show that style does NOT come with a price tag.

Cecille Ysmael, on the other hand, wore iconic mom-in-law **Chona Kasten**'s beaded top.

The bodacious went for up-and-coming design stars **Joey Samson, Louie Claparols, LZ Punzalan, Ivarluski Aseron** and **Kate Torralba**, also one of the 25 style setters featured in the mag.

A high point of my night was when I interviewed some lady who claimed she was 98 years old and was the original designer of Diana Ross! Now how's that for vintage class?

Other fashion statements came in the form of bandannas, as exhibited by **Celine Lopez** and **Angel Jacob** in pixie and pirate looks, respectively. Jewelmer decked the girls in proud pearls that surely cost more than the whole event.

Still others wore attitude to the hilt, with reigning royalty **Tessa Prieto-Valdes** arriving as an 18th-century vampire! Cuz' **Leica Carpo** arrived from the future in a shiny white take on the new androgyny.

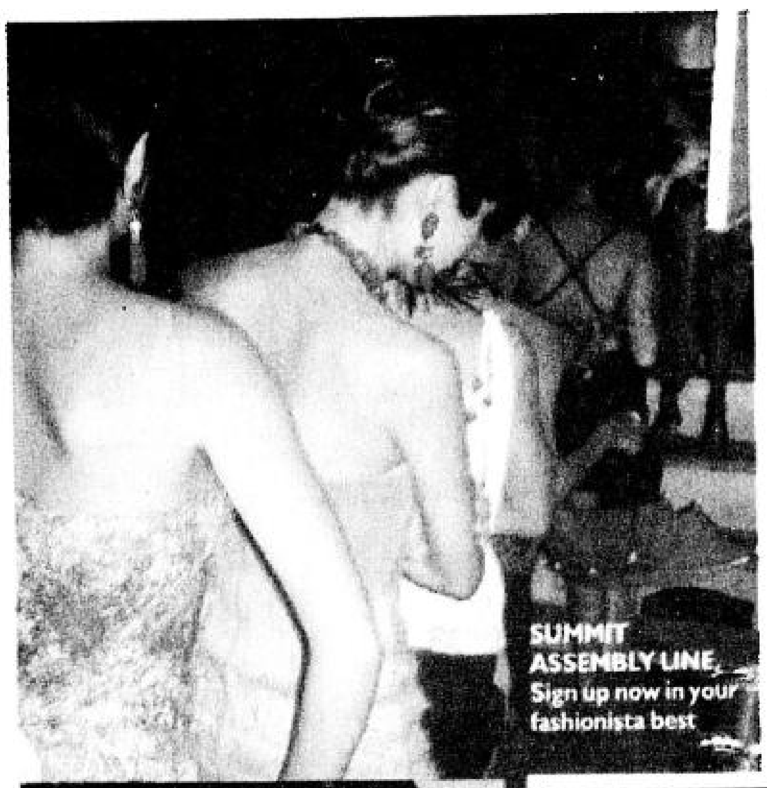
The best soundbite about it all came from my favorite fashion writer **Gino dela Paz:** "The best rule is to break the rules!"

Preview ed-in-chief **Pauline Suaco-Juan** and her übersavvy and stylish staff must pat each other in the back. Not only did they bring Preview to greater heights, they also came up with an event that brought the mag's pages to life!

Ab (for Absinth) fab cocktails, hotter-than-hot people, a show that makes you proud to be a chronicler of Pinoy style files, and a community of fashion lovers who are open to and accepting of change—cheers to this generation's avant-guardians!

Indeed, I can't believe it's been eight years since I approached then editor-in-chief **Leah Puyat** and fashion editor **Myrza Sison** at the Mandarin and told them, "I really love your magazine!" I carried on like a long-lost fan after reading the very first issue, with **Tweetie De Leon** on the cover.

This month, the mag has 25 incarnations of what modern style is all about. I loved it then, I still love it now.


SUMMIT ASSEMBLY LINE. Sign up now in your fashionista best

GODDESSES. Pia Guanio, host of "Breakfast" on Studio 23, with Preview ed-in-chief, the style-setting Pauline Suaco in LZ Punzalan

FASHIO[illegible] FRIENDSH[illegible] Parma and [illegible] Doesnt

F(ASHION)4. Brian Tan in RCXY Bautista

HAIR DO! Grace Tagle before the show

MUSING. Larry Espinosa and Marilen Faustino

SHA[illegible]G HIG[illegible] Raya [illegible]anquil and N[illegible]colette Bell

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Call: 8975011-14, look for Melanie.

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Looking for Mr. Right

Don't be too preoccupied with finding him. Self-knowledge and understanding are more important goals.

Niño Mark Sablan
& September Mahino

I'VE been having problems with my boyfriend. He seems boring to talk to on the phone. When he comes home after work, he goes to his buddies to play basketball. He says he doesn't want a girl who doesn't have time for him, but I think he is the problem. I've been into many relationships, but they don't seem to last. What should I do? Should I find another one, or just wait until Mr. Right comes along—if there's a Mr. Right?

JAMECIA

Jamecia dear, I'm clapping my hands so hard they're numb.

Without too much brainwork, I have to agree that he is the problem. If he seems boring, then most probably he is boring, and not only that, he's a Mikasa-loving kid who can't handle a romantic relationship, too.

Let him do his dribbling (and headbutting, too) while you look for a real man who can make your heart skip a couple of beats, plaster a smile on your face and give you orbital phone bills as well.

Always strive for equality, and if he demands that a girl be 24/7 for him when he himself can't give you a nano-second, waste no time in looking for someone who can give you more than just a second, plus hours of stimulating phone conversations that can challenge your brain cells.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Looking for the one isn't as easy as spotting a 7-Eleven. For most of us, it's more like a case of wishing that the one we're presently with is the one.

Learn from all your ruined relationships and be a better girlfriend because of them. Don't rush into one, though, and don't force yourself to be involved, thinking you'll find Mr. Right asap.

Embrace each relationship, and don't get too bent on simply figuring out if he is already the one (so you can move on if he turns out to be Mr. Wrong). You'll hear wind chimes when Mr. Right makes his grand entrance.

There's no need to actively seek him out or ask every boy you cross paths with if he is Mr. Right.

You'll just know. So better clean your ears in preparation for the wind chimes.

MARK

Yes, go ahead and dump your boring boyfriend. You have every right to, as the guy has a penchant for shifting the blame to you, instead of admitting his part in making your relationship miserable.

I've watched too many Dr. Phil guestings in "Oprah," and your situation is simply a smaller scale model of the dysfunctional relationships that they use as case studies.

In my opinion, the longer you stay with such an apathetic and immature partner, the more bitter you will become.

However, it doesn't mean that you don't have your own share of faults in not making your relationship work. Perhaps you were too demanding, or had too many expectations?

While getting rid of your boring dude is a necessary item in your to-do list, it will also be good to take an inventory of your own traits, both the nice and the not-so-nice ones.

It seems that you've been too focused on searching for the perfect boyfriend. Well, good boyfriends don't come in neatly wrapped packages. Just as you don't come in a neatly wrapped package.

Don't be too preoccupied with looking for Mr. Right because, aside from that guy being a mere myth, self-knowledge and understanding are more important goals. Besides, they're the easier endeavors.

SEP

E-mail the writers at markandsep@yahoo.com

Kids
children's shoes
Garfield
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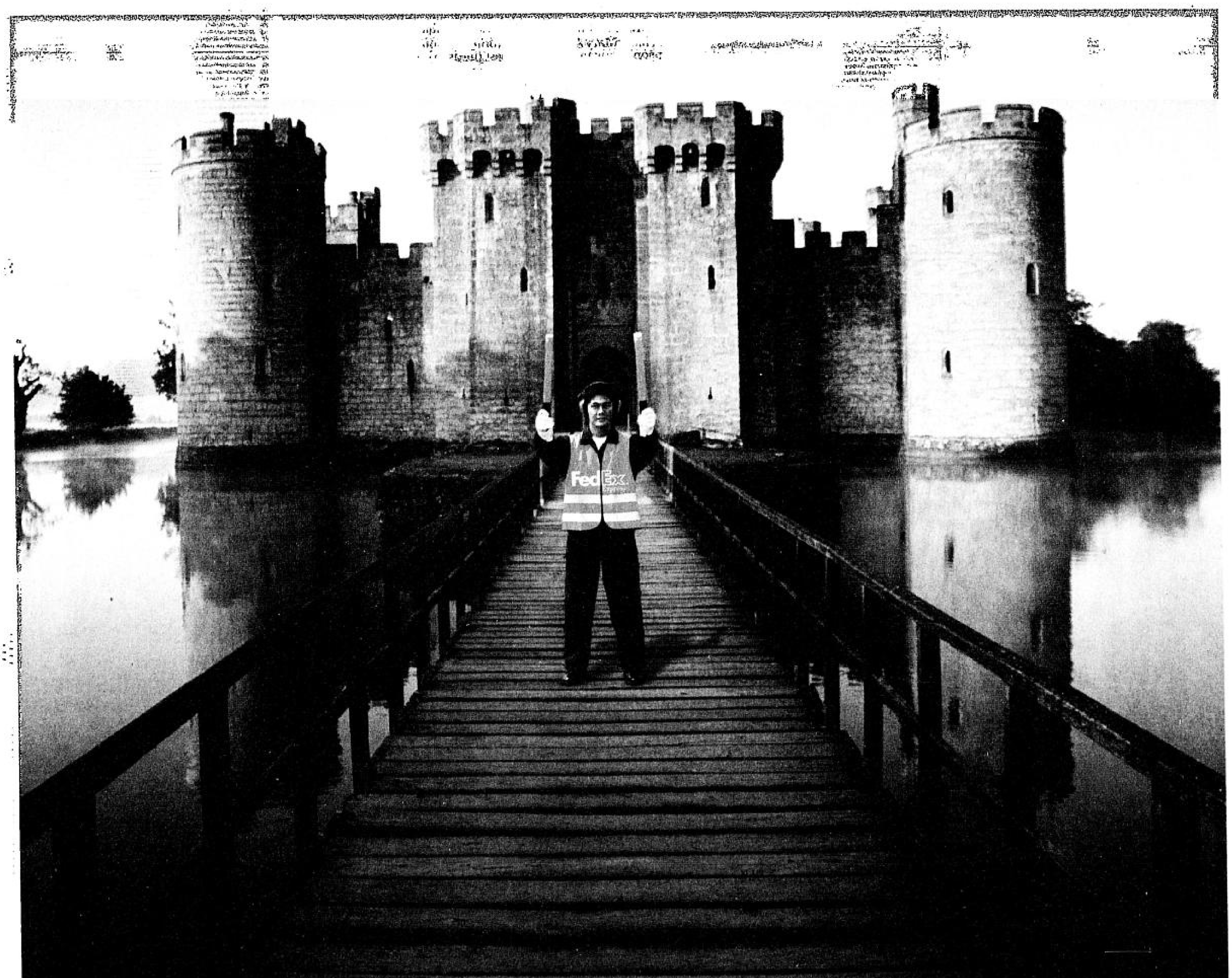
SM DEPARTMENT STORE We've got it all for you!



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Dina Bonnevie
Paolo Montalban
TJ Manotoc

Regine Tolentino
Nina

Gary V.
Regine Velasquez

Verni Varga
Dulce

Kuh Ledesma

Jimmy Bondoc
Paolo Santos

Ruffa Mae Quinto
Ara Mina

Kyla
Karylle

Jolina Magdangal
Dingdong Dantes

Anna Fegi
Rada

Ariel Rivera
Dessa

Rachel Alejandro
Geneva Cruz

Manoeuvres
Hotlegs

Be there on July 27, 2003 at 7:30pm as Sun Cellular rises.

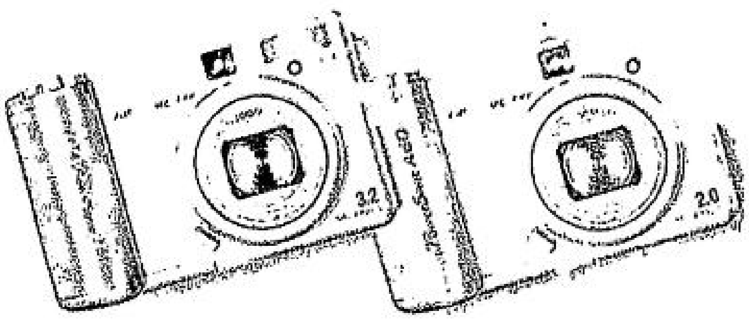
Just present your Sun Cellular unit at any of The Sun Shops and get free tickets to see some of the biggest names in the music scene today! See you there!

Catch the 2-hour special telecast on GMA 7 July 27, 2003 9:30pm

SUN
CELLULAR
Everything Important is Under the Sun

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE
2BU! Young to be you • to be young • To be you!

We're in love with the Canon Powershot A70!



2BU! WISHLIST
A digital gem

By Pam Pastor

"HEY, that camera's number one in the US consumer reports," my aunt, who was visiting from Seattle, said as I whipped out the Canon Powershot A70 that I had been testing. She's had the same camera for months and is very happy with it. Another uncle has the same camera and is pleased with it, too.

And why not?

Powerful batteries

The Canon Powershot A70's performance was a pleasant surprise. Since I am used to digital cameras with batteries that run out faster than you can document just a single event, the Canon Powershot's long battery life was a pure delight. Its four rechargeable AA batteries can withstand an entire day of heavy use and still have enough power for the next day.

The batteries are just the beginning.

Flexible modes

The camera's different shooting modes cater to different users' varying needs.

The auto mode can work for people with no experience in photography. All you have to do is press the shutter and the camera will do the rest of the work.

The portrait mode is for taking pictures of human subjects. Photos taken with this mode will show the subject sharply while blurring the background.

As the name suggests, the landscape mode is for taking pictures of expansive landscape scenes.

For owls, the night scene mode can capture human subjects at night when the background is usually dark. This mode enables the camera to illuminate the people with light while the background is captured by slow shutter speed, making for correct exposure.

The fast shutter mode is for pictures of fast-moving objects.

The slow shutter mode is for capturing shots of moving objects and making them appear blurred.

The stitch assist mode can be used to take panoramic pictures which you can later on stitch together using your computer.

The macro mode is used for closeups.

The Powershot A70 can also be used to take short movie clips with the movie mode.

Sound clips may be attached to images and movie clips.

Impressive images

The camera's image quality is impressive and even surpassed my expectations. The resolution of the images may be adjusted to suit one's needs. Images may be printed directly from the camera once it is connected to a printer.

The software that comes with the camera is very easy to use. Even a tech-savvy gradeschooler can handle it with aplomb.

The camera comes with key sounds that make you think you're playing with a Game and Watch instead of tinkering with your camera. The sounds are cute at first but can get annoying after a while, but it's easy to switch them off.

The price isn't bad at all, especially when you think about the features this camera offers.

Although the Canon Powershot A70 isn't as sleek and handy as some people would like, the features more than make up for the size. It may be a little big, but it's easy to carry around and the shape makes for easy gripping and handling. Leaving it at home almost feels like a crime.

This is what you call digital love.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

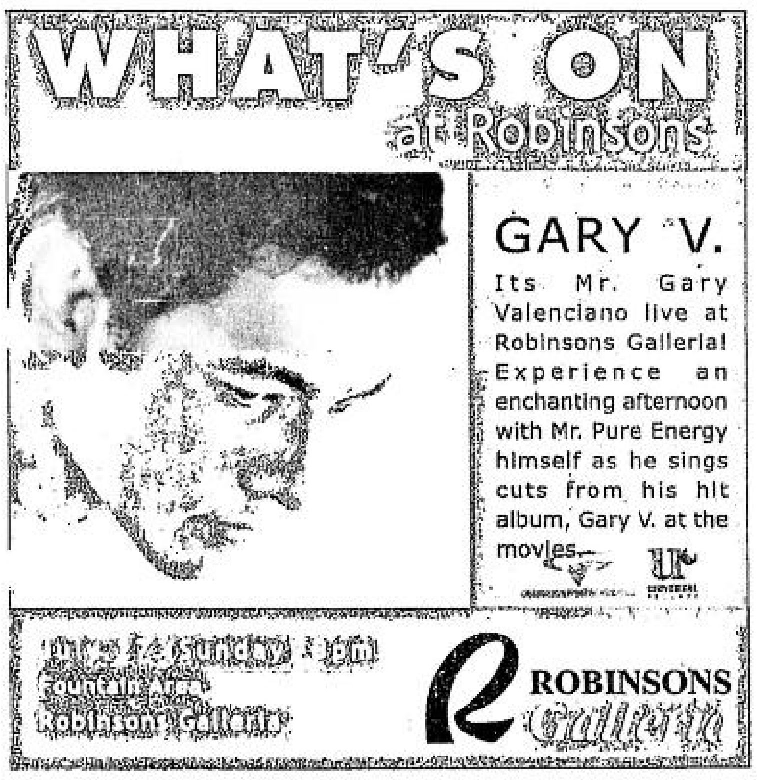
SPECS

3.2 mega pixels
Still image format: JPEG
Image effects: Sepia, Vivid, Neutral, Black & White, Low Sharpening
Continuous Shooting Speed: 2.2 frames per second
Memory: 1 x 16 MB CompactFlash Card included
Cables: 1 x A/V cable, 1 x USB cable
Power: 4 x Alkaline Standard battery
Dimensions: (w x d x h) 4 in x 1.3 in x 2.5 in
Weight: 7.6 oz

EXPRESS ADVICE

Memorize your ATM PIN (Personal Identification Number). Don't divulge it to anyone. Choose a PIN that is not easy for other people to decipher.

BPI EXPRESS TELLER
The fully-loaded ATM card.



WHAT'S ON at Robinsons

GARY V.
Its Mr. Gary Valenciano live at Robinsons Galleria! Experience an enchanting afternoon with Mr. Pure Energy himself as he sings cuts from his hit album, Gary V. at the movies.

[illegible] Sunday [illegible] pm
Fountain Area
Robinsons Galleria

ROBINSONS Galleria

"Boss, yung ₱1 million ko!"

Bayan, I-txt ang Resibo!

Pwede kang manalo ng: • ₱5,000 plus instant prizes sa Daily Draws • ₱1,000,000 sa Monthly Draws • ₱1,000,000 para sa texter at ₱1,000,000 para sa issuer sa Anniversary Draw.

Madali lang sumali!

1. Humingi lang ng Official Receipt o O.R. tuwing kumakain sa labas, namimili, kumukunsulta sa doctor, abogado at kapag nag-avail ng iba pang professional services.
2. I-text ang mga sumusunod sa 345 simula June 23:

How to register: For the first time, I-type ang: RESIBO(space)name*address*TIN of O.R.*O.R. number*amount of purchase

I-send sa 345: Phone Number: 345

Para sa mga succeeding entries, I-type ang: RESIBO(space)TIN of O.R.*O.R. number*amount of purchase

3. Itago ang inyong mga Official Receipts. Makakakuha kayo via text ng confirmation kung ilan na ang entries ninyo. Every Php100 = 1 raffle entry. Kailangan ipakita ng winner ang actual Official Receipt for validation.

Abangan ang mga Daily, Monthly (June 30 at July 31, 2003) at Anniversary draws (August 29, 2003). Baka kayo na ang susunod na mananalo!

Ang mga Official Receipts lang na na-issue mula May 15, 2003 ang qualified sa promo. Only entries sent for the day will qualify for the Daily Draw. However, ang mga non-winning entries sa Daily Draws ay isasali sa Monthly and Anniversary draws.

For more details, call the SMART Money Toll-Free Hotline at 1-800-1888-5648 (via a landline) or 15177 (via a SMART GSM Cellphone), e-mail us at e-services@smart.com.ph or visit any SMART Wireless Center near you.

SMART Simply Amazing!

Ang mga daily draws ay mula June 23 to August 28, 2003, except weekends, special and regular non-working holidays. Ang dalawang (2) Monthly Draws ay sa June 30, 2003 at July 31, 2003; at ang Anniversary Draw ay sa August 29, 2003.

PARTY ALERT!

Seventeen turns 6 at

Watch out for the country's freshest talents in fashion, music and arts live out loud on

July 26, 2003
Saturday
7 p.m.
Rockwell Tent,
Makati City

seventeen sigaw

Put your skills to the test! We're searching for the
MALE and FEMALE CAMPUS HEARTTHROB,
the BEST BODY ART, the BEST SIGAW- CAPELLA,
the BEST DANCE GROUP, the BEST FASHION SHOWCASE,
the BEST FASHION DESIGN and the
BEST SIGAW MALE & FEMALE MODEL!

Come one, come all!
Root for your friends and have a blast at
seventeen's biggest SIGAW yet!

Co presented by:
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SUMMIT

STORE OF THE WEEK

Fun place offers mentally stimulating toys and games

Text and photos by Margot Aissa C. Tan
2bU! Correspondent

IT'S playtime!

If you're looking for a good place to hang out and spend quality time with your family or friends, try the Hobbes.

Both young and old can put to work again their rusty gears in a seriously fun place for mental gymnastics. While having some coffee, premium Haagen Dazs ice cream, or a slice of decadent French Kiss chocolate cake, you can, for instance, entertain yourself by putting together pieces of a 3D Camelot jigsaw puzzle.

The place is cozy and piled high with imported, never-before-seen-in-the-Philippines products. It has all sorts of board games, unconventional puzzles, and educational toys and materials ranging from good-quality microscopes for children to build-it-yourself gadgets and model planes. You won't get bored here, as there are new toys every three weeks.

Here are my top three picks, available in all Hobbes branches at Greenbelt 3, the Power Plant in Rockwell, the Podium, and Alabang Town Center.

'Friends' Trivia Game (Collector's edition)

For groupies of the long-running "Friends" television series, this is definitely a good buy. Players travel around the board visiting each of the friends' apartments while answering 1,200 challenging trivia questions such as: In the very first episode, Rachel rushed into Central Park wearing what? Name Ross' ex-wife's life partner. Which friend was bitten by a peacock?

The game is for two or more players, aged 10 and above. Though the price is quite steep at P2,200, fans would enjoy testing their "Friends" IQ in this lovable and simple game.

FRIENDS
Trivia Game

Answers to the trivia questions: a wedding dress, Susan, Chandler

3D Squares

It looks easy, but once you get your hands on one of these, it will take hours before you stop. It's an engrossing matching puzzle for ages 6 and up. You remove the squares from the tray, mix them up, and arrange the squares making sure that all the images are correctly matched.

A definite no-no when setting up the puzzle pieces: sticking the butt of a spider to a ladybug's head. You can take the game wherever you go and play with friends. 3D Squares has different themes and designs—dinosaurs, sea animals, horses, astronomy, and bugs. Each set costs P680.

Build-it-yourself Robot Arm

Talk about high-tech toys. This is an educational electronic kit that can put Lego out of business. The robot arm has five motors, five joints, and has separate movements to grab/release, lift/lower, rotate the wrist and pivot sideways. You can control it by flicking the five switches on the wired controller.

Product description? The robot arm includes the fundamentals of robotic sensing and the basic principles of mechanics. The transparent arm and LED lights allow you to observe gear mechanism and movements. The manual contains detailed descriptions of the robot's components and instructions on assembling the robot arm, plus an explanation of the mechanism involved and a brief history of robots as well.

To put this piece of technology together, you'd need a number 2 screwdriver, a pair of long-nose pliers, a pen knife, a marking pen and some transparent tape.

Recommended for ages 14 and above. The gadget costs a hefty P4,280.

Find out
what's
news
on July 27.

When coffee and dormitory reality don't mix

By Jason Doplito
2bU! Correspondent

THE POSSIBILITY of having a decent dormitory in the country is almost zero. You're lucky if you have ventilation in your room and a working faucet in the bathroom. Never mind the dilapidated ceiling and roach-infested walls. The important thing is you've found an affordable place to stay.

Now, you squeeze in together with your gazillion other dorm mates in a common room (where the TV is) and wait for the showing of "Meteor Garden." And then, the coffee ad appears—a bunch of boys having the time of their life—ironing their shirts, brushing their teeth and taking a shower in a bathroom where there seems to be an endless supply of water.

All these are done in slow motion as if in a dream-like sequence. Then one of the guys announces, *"Walaang pasoook!"* They all break into happy grins and drink coffee in a high-ceilinged lobby with gigantic windows, laughing all around. Everything is perfect. Hurrah for world peace.

And you're stuck with your smelly dorm mates.

Not too Pinoy

The ad has probably made people smirk and raise their eyebrows because it's just not too Pinoy.

In reality, there'll be about four guys in one bedroom. The communal bathroom will be crowded with long lines due to the morning rush. And there won't even be showerheads; they'll be using *tabo* while taking a shower.

Also, the all-male dorm will be peppered with at least (to be polite about it) a handful of not-so-fair-looking occupants as opposed to the *tisoy* ones in the ad.

All these details make one wonder if there really exists such a dorm, and if so—where? One friend commented that maybe it is a fraternity house, not a dorm. Okay, but if it's a frat house, then the guys taking a shower should have had bruises all over their bodies as a result of certain initiation practices.

Some people say there are no "real" ads; that ads are always a few notches below or above true conditions. But that is the point. Why does the setting have to look so artificial?

Never mind the argument that boys would rather drink coffee than go back to bed after learning classes were suspended. The least advertisers can do is show environments that are much closer to reality and therefore allow viewers to connect with the theme strongly.

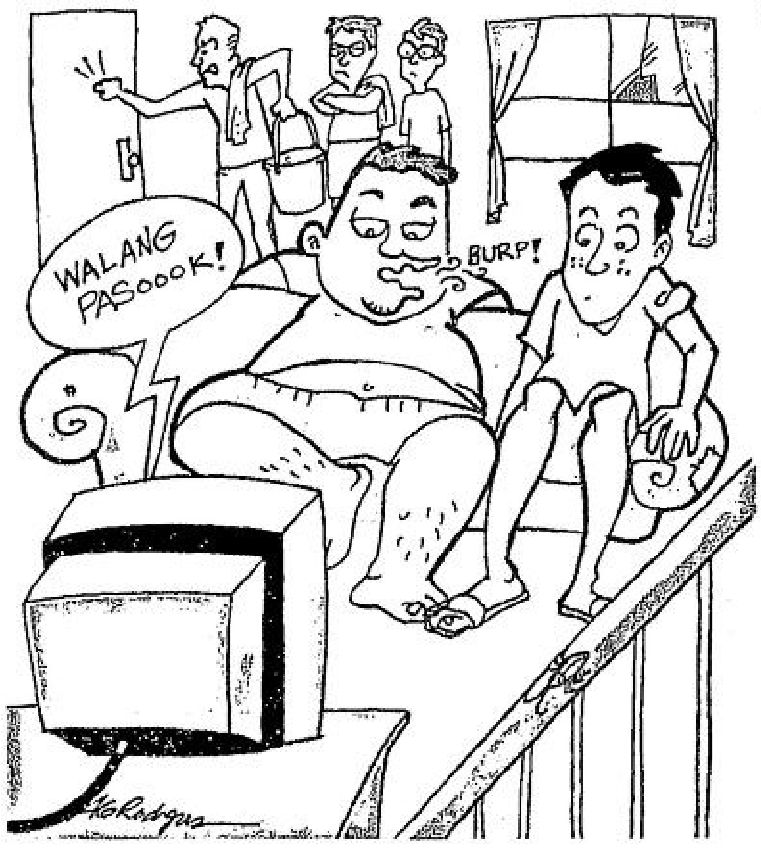
On the other hand, perhaps the advertisement was really a commentary on the state of dormitories in the country! It's conceivable that the ad wants to promote a dorm-awareness campaign among different campuses. "This is how your boarding houses should look like," it tries to tell students. "You should have water and swanky sofas. Your bathroom tiles should be germ-free and gleaming like glass!"

It may also suggest the importance of restricting one person to one bedroom for a good night's sleep. (Notice how hard it was for this particular guy to turn his alarm clock off?)

And why do all the guys have smooth, fair skin instead of pimples? Because they have clean, insect-free beddings, something dorm administrators should provide. It can also be deduced that since they all look fit, the dorm must have a gym, or they're served nutritious food.

To be bolder about it, the ad provokes dormers to have a sense of activism and fight for their rights to proper housing. A housing so nice you'd prefer drinking coffee there than elsewhere. After all, there's the question: Why can't a decent dorm exist in this country?

E-mail the author at jason_2bu@yahoo.com


WALANG PASOOOK!
BURP!
AGRodriguez

In a strange twist to commercialism, an unrealistic advertisement hits the nail right on what is fair and proper housing for students

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

ASHANTI

Back-to-back music video reviews

A sexier Ashanti, a meaner Beyonce

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

Rock wit u (awww baby)

Ashanti

ASHANTI'S back with her second album. And just to prove how successful she has been, the first single features no Ja Rule and instead flaunts her leaner, sexier bod.

Clad in a bra top and jeans ensemble while gyrating like an agitated rattlesnake, Ashanti will remind viewers of Janet Jackson. She later on slips into a skimpy white dress with a neckline that plunges to the dark pits of hell, and gets wet, surely much to the delight of many testosterone-charged viewers. Give her a few seconds and her little dress grows sleeves, but to make up for such a conservative choice, she dances like a hypnotized cobra in front of a guy everybody assumes she likes.

In the middle of the night, they drive off to some hideaway where Beyonce-looking Ashanti is seen practicing her moves, this time with banana leaves as a backdrop.

Undeniably groovy, the exotic-looking video will make you clap your hands when an elephant appears, and wonder why Ashanti, at some particular point, is trying to imitate a bronze statuette's pose.

Crazy in love

Beyonce

The most famous third of Destiny's Child is finally out with her own solo album, and the carrier single is a clear indication that Beyonce will be successful for quite a while.

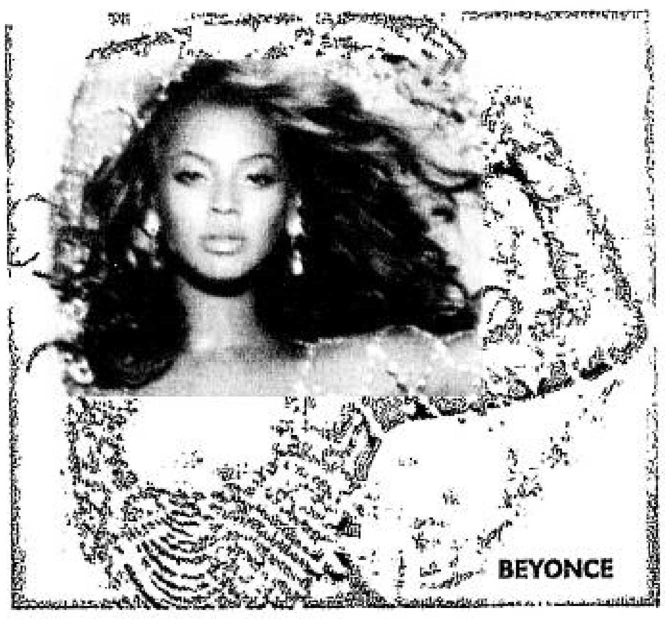
A beauty in simplicity, Beyonce wears a white top and a pair of denim shorts that perfectly cups her assets in the video's opening. The sudden stumble to start her little dance routine is undeniably a surprising yet impressive move.

Beyonce's flair for fashion is also evident in the vid. From her bangs to her varsity-inspired outfit, she looks smashing in whatever hairstyle or clothes she's in.

Yet another video without a plot, the highlight is the part where Beyonce, donning earrings huge enough to be chimes, emotes inside a car about to be blown up. When it does, we find a lingerie-clad Beyonce flirting with rapper Jay-Z right beside the burnt vehicle.

And oh, she does go conservative by covering herself with a fur coat (which I hope is faux fur). But she just can't contain her flirtatious side, so she teases from time to time. Great song plus a fab vid with lots of booty-shaking equals applause, applause, applause!

E-mail the author at omark_katot@yahoo.com


BEYONCE

gtw
girls teens wear
gears, trnds & what hav u's
petit monde
SM
DEPARTMENT STORE
We've got it all for you
QUIAPO · MAKATI · CUBAO · HARRISON · NORTH EDSA · ORTIGAS · MANILA · LAS PIÑAS · PAMPANGA · BACOOR · FAIRVIEW

WE SEE A PUDDLE.

NISSAN
X-TRAIL

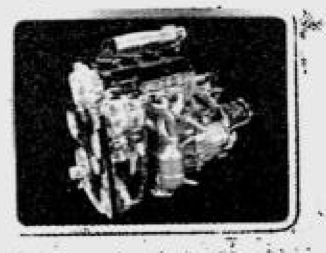
Finally, an SUV to answer your extreme demands.

Nissan introduces the X-TRAIL, the most powerful 4x4 vehicle in its class. So you can ride through any extreme condition, from rough roads to floods, in extreme comfort.

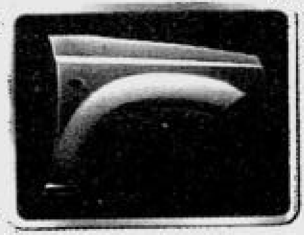
Extremely flexible luggage space accommodates even two mountain bikes. And it's dirt, scratch and water resistant so it's easy to clean.

4x4 ASM (4x4 Auto Shift Mode)

The All-mode 4x4 gives you a grip on any situation, so you have optimum driving control even under extreme conditions.



The low noise, low vibration QR engines have Continuously Variable Valve Timing Control (CVTC) for optimum power at any speed, in any condition.



Made of space-age polymers, the X-TRAIL's front fenders absorb most impacts and snap back to their original shape without cracking.

SHIFT_the future NISSAN

X-TRAIL

THREE
[illegible]
100,000
[illegible]
WARRANTY*

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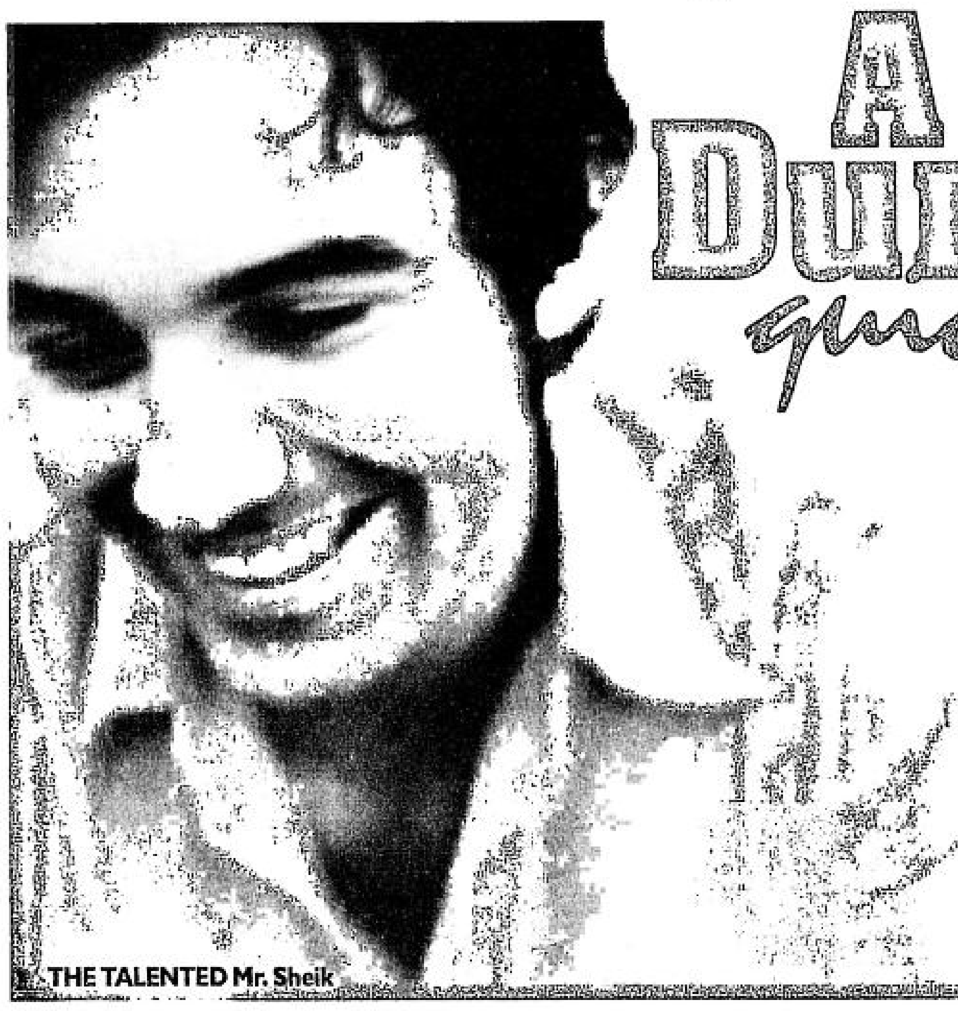
LIFESTYLE 2bU
to be young • to be you • To be you!

A Duncan quickie

STORY ON PAGE E4

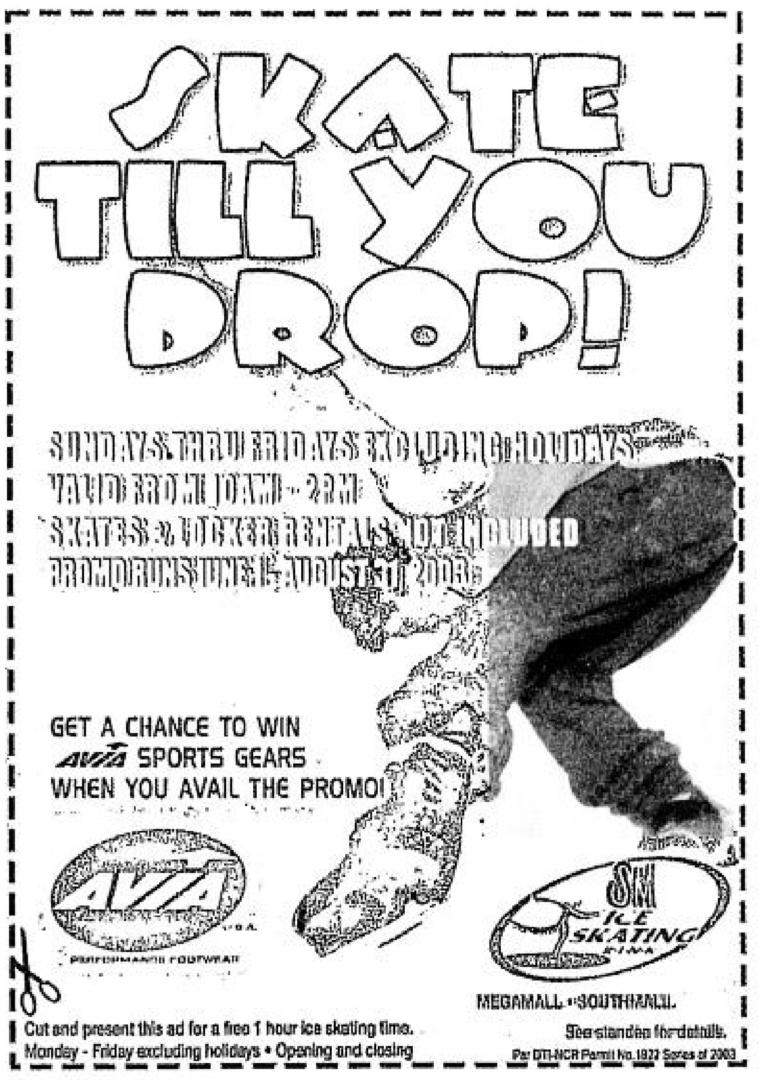


THE TALENTED Mr. Sheik

onstage 2nyt

Cowboy Grill	Cowboy Grill	Cowboy Grill
LAS PIÑAS ☎ 801.7644	SERSIDE ICE KENDI	NO ENTRANCE FEE
MABINI ☎ 525.1474	CRO MAGNON M PEOPLE/MIXED-UP	NO ENTRANCE FEE
MALATE ☎ 521.8143	FAT 16 MISSMO	NO ENTRANCE FEE
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757	EMMANUELLE MEN OPPOSE	BLAKDYAK ALL FRIDAY'S OF JULY
BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7268	FEEDBACK STREETLIFE	BLAKDYAK JULY 24 & AUG.07
TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S
JUPITER ☎ 890.4735	SOUTH EDGE P R P	NO ENTRANCE FEE
REMEDIOS ☎ 522.0429	STAY TUNED 3RD DEGREE	JULY 30-SABOR LATINO AUG.07-SOUTH BORDER
TOMAS MORATO ☎ 371.1473	3RD MOVEMENT	JULY 29-SABOR LATINO

JULY 23 WEDNESDAY 422-9877



SKATE TILL YOU DROP!

SUNDAYS THRU FRIDAYS EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS
VALID FROM 10AM - 2PM
SKATES & LOCKER RENTALS NOT INCLUDED
PROMO RUNS JUNE 1 - AUGUST 31, 2003

GET A CHANCE TO WIN AVIA SPORTS GEARS WHEN YOU AVAIL THE PROMO!

AVIA U.S.A. PERFORMANCE FOOTWEAR

SM ICE SKATING RINK
MEGAMALL • SOUTHMALL

Cut and present this ad for a free 1 hour ice skating time.
Monday - Friday excluding holidays • Opening and closing

See standee for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1927 Series of 2003

Win HBO goodies!

WE'RE absolutely crazy over the second season of "Six Feet Under" (our couches have our names written all over them every Tuesday night).

Things to expect this season: Nate and Brenda navigate the murky waters of long-term relationships, Dave starts dating again, Claire still can't get enough of bad boys, Ruth struggles to "rebuild" her "house," and Frederico keeps his cool through the troubles of married life.

In celebration of its second season, we're giving away HBO post-its, notebooks, pads and pens to the first 10 people who answer this weekly survey. Send your answers to **Contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph.**

Deadline is 12 nn, July 28.

Everyone in the Fisher family has some serious gripe. When you think of your life so far, do you feel fulfilled?

• Yes • No

Given a chance, would you start life anew with a new identity in a new location?

• Yes • No

When Nathaniel Fisher became a victim in an unexpected tragic accident, he is portrayed as being freed from the cares of the world. Do you believe that death is a form of escape?

• Yes • No

Nate discovers he has a tumor in his brain and he is terrified. Are you afraid of dying?

• Yes • No

Nathaniel Fisher is constantly hanging around to offer his gems of wisdom to his son, Nate. Have you ever had a similar experience where you received advice from people who had passed away?

• Yes • No

EVERYBODY'S favorite dysfunctional couple: Nate and Brenda.

Are you getting left behind?

JOIN THE PRIZE CATCH!
WIN A HOUSE FROM zed!

- Grand Prize: House by Vazbuilt.
- Daily Prizes: Timex watches.
- Over P1 million in prizes.
- **Just send JOIN <NAME>/<ADDRESS> to 288.**
  Ex: JOIN DAVE TAN / 15 Lion St. Makati City.
- Start downloading logos, picture messages and tones.
- Each download of a logo, picture message or ringtone gives you one raffle entry.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1211 Series of 2003.

LOGO HARTROSE 1
2
3
LOGO 4EVERLUV 4
LOGO METEORA 5
LOGO ANGHEL 6
LOGO JESUS 7
8
LOGO 2SEXY 9
LOGO POGIAKO 10
LOGO LOVE 11
12
LOGO FRENCH 13
LOGO LUVFACE 14
LOGO COOLGUYS 15
LOGO THORNS 16
LOGO EMPTY 17
LOGO SOSEXY1 18
LOGO BODY 19
LOGO SCREEN 20
LOGO BEST
LOGO BORED
LOGO IDONT
LOGO JAM
LOGO MUSTANG
LOGO RIDE
LOGO TRASH
LOGO SNAP
LOGO SPOTTY
LOGO TARGET1
LOGO YEAH
PIC 2LOGKN
PIC CUTEMO
PIC FIGHT1
PIC SOGR8
PIC SOSEXY
PIC ADDICTED
PIC APRUB
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POWLOGO
Get the hottest logo automatically delivered to your cell phone weekly.
Type POWLOGO and send to 288.

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Get the hottest picture message automatically delivered to your cell phone weekly.
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Hitlist

1	Spaghetti Song	Sexbomb	TONE SPAG
2	Can't Lose You	F4	TONE CANTLOSE
3	Broken Vow	Lara Fabian	TONE BROKEN
4	Faint	Linkin Park	TONE FAINT
5	X Gon Give It To Ya	DMX	TONE XGIVE
6	Foolish Heart	Nina	TONE FOOLISH
7	In Da Club	50 Cents	TONE INDACLUB
8	Kisapmata	Rivermaya	TONE KISAP
9	Hero	Enrique Iglesias	TONE HERO
10	Bring Me Back To Life	Evanescence	TONE BRINGME
	I Know What You Want	Busta Rhymes and Mariah	TONE IKNOWAT
	Escuse Me Miss	Jay-Z And Pharrel	TONE EXCUSEME
	Hellsong	Sum41	TONE HELLSONG
	My Immortal	Evanescence	TONE IMMORTAL
	Intuition	Jewel	TONE INTUI
	No Letting Go	Wayne Wonder	TONE NOLET
	P.I.M.P.	50 Cent	TONE PIMP
	Rock Your Body	Justine Timberlake	TONE ROCKYOUR
	Shoulda Coulda Woulda	Brian McKnight	TONE SHOULDA
	Kisapmata	Rivermaya	TONE KISAP

How to download a logo, ring tone or picture message:

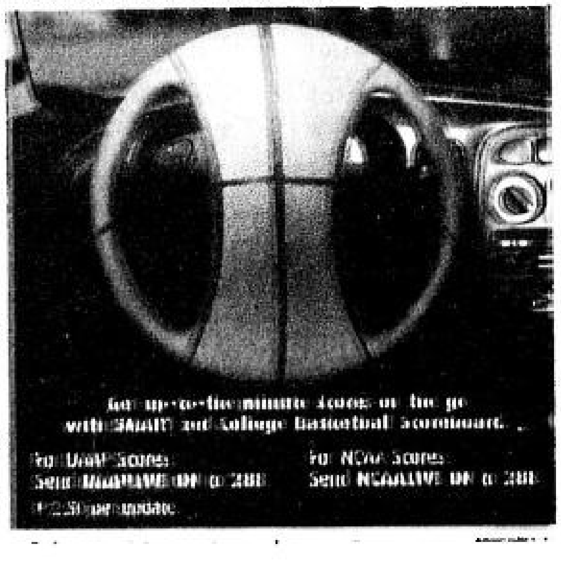
LOGO BEST — Type in keyword, Ex. LOGO BEST, TONE IMMORTAL, or PIC CUTEMO.
288 — Send to 288.
Save upon receiving logo, ring tone or picture message.

To send logo, tone or picture message to a friend, type **<keyword> <cell phone number>** and send to 288.
To send a logo, LOGO BEST 09181234567.
To send a tone, TONE IMMORTAL 09181234567.
To send a picture message, PIC CUTEMO 09181234567

To download all these from your SMART Super SIM, simply go to the SMART Menu, select SMART zed and then select My Favorites. Just click on the service you wish to download. It's so easy!

Logos, ring tones and picture messages are supported by selected Nokia handsets. **Also available to Talk 'N Text subscribers** P15.00 for every successful download. Know what's hot! Send **HOTLOGOS, HOTTONES** or **HOTPICS** to **288** to get weekly lists of zed's hottest and newest logos, tones or picture messages. Only P2.50 per message received.

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, text us at 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.



Get up-to-the-minute scores on the go with SMART zed College Basketball Scoreboard.
For UAAP Scores: Send UAAPLIVE ON to 288
For NCAA Scores: Send NCAALIVE ON to 288
P2.50 per update.

CAL GAL
Get a different "girly" calendar logo everyday!
Just send CALGAL to 288.
P5 per daily delivery of logo.

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Get a different "guy" calendar logo everyday!
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zed POW tone
Get the hottest ring tone automatically delivered to your cell phone weekly.
Type POWTONE and send to 288.
Featured tone of the week is A.D.I.D.A.S. by Killer Mike.
Exclusively available via POWTONE

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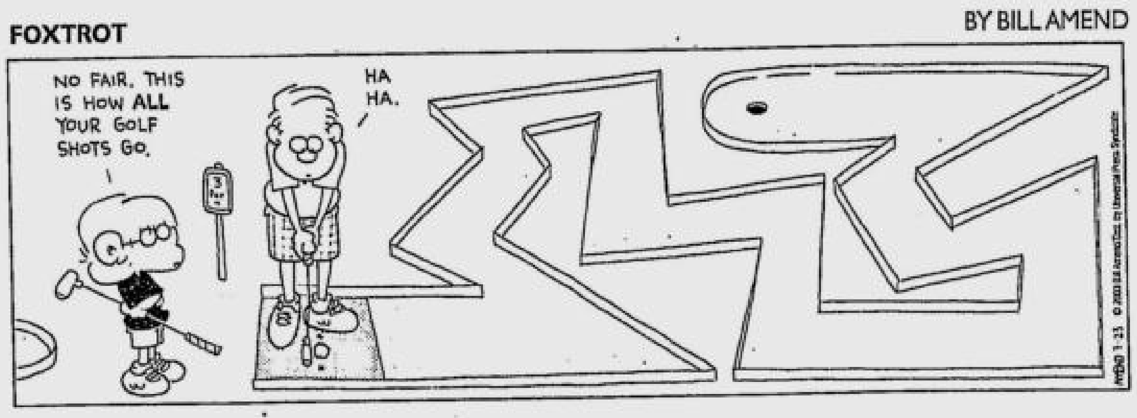
BEST COPY AVAILABLE

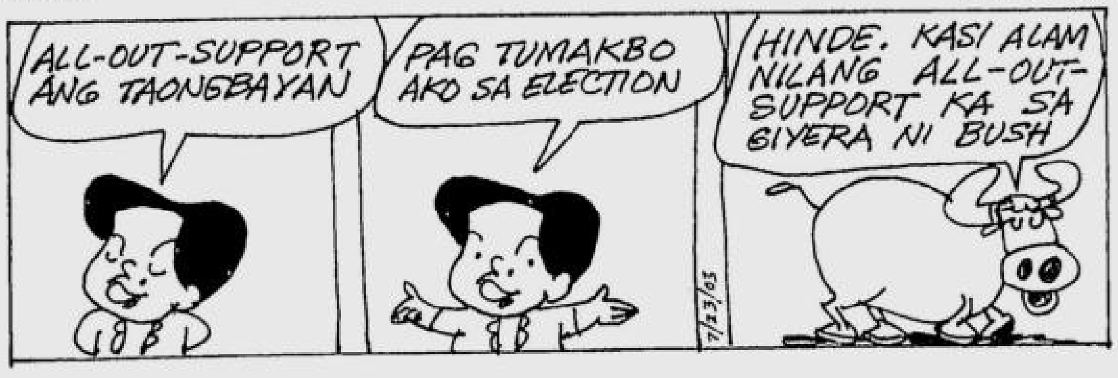
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


NO FAIR. THIS IS HOW ALL YOUR GOLF SHOTS GO.
HA HA.

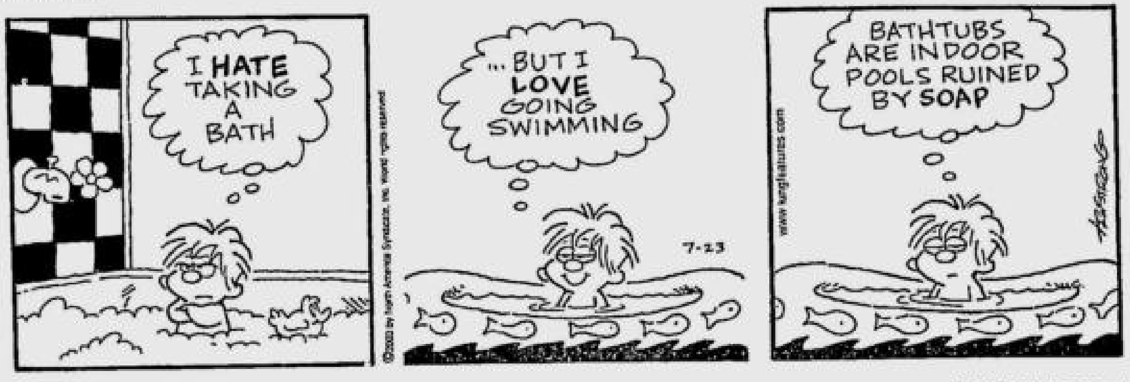
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ALL-OUT-SUPPORT ANG TAONGBAYAN
PAG TUMAKBO AKO SA ELECTION
HINDE. KASI ALAM NILANG ALL-OUT-SUPPORT KA SA GIYERA NI BUSH
7/23/03

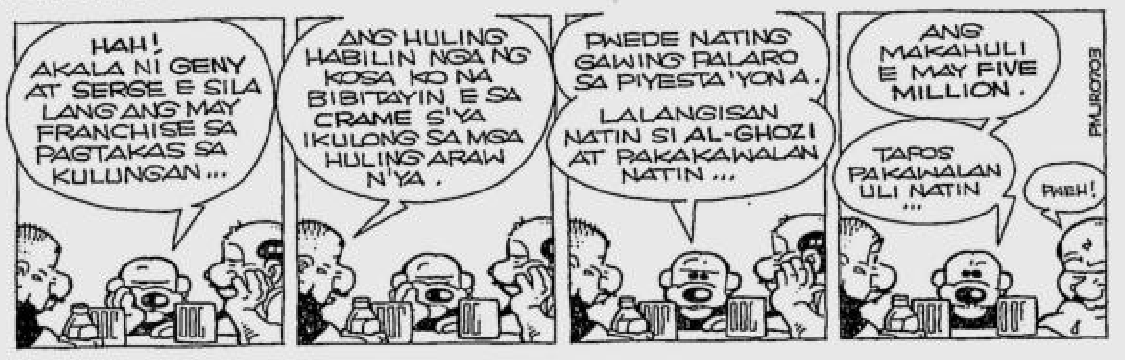
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I HATE TAKING A BATH
...BUT I LOVE GOING SWIMMING
7-23
BATHTUBS ARE INDOOR POOLS RUINED BY SOAP

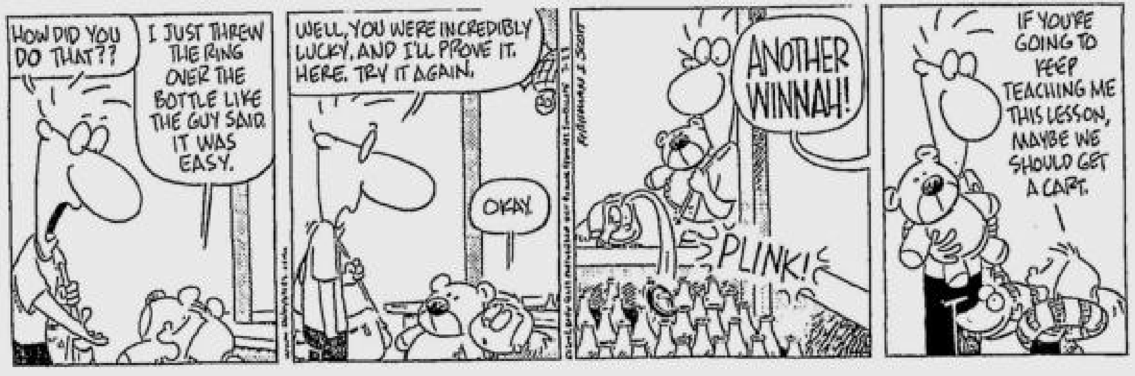
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HAH! AKALA NI GENY AT SERGE E SILA LANG ANG MAY FRANCHISE SA PAGTAKAS SA KULUNGAN...
ANG HULING HABILIN NGA NG KOSA KO NA BIBITAYIN E SA CRAME S'YA IKULONG SA MGA HULING ARAW N'YA.
PWEDE NATING GAWING PALARO SA PIYESTA 'YON A.
LALANGISAN NATIN SI AL-GHOZI AT PAKAKAWALAN NATIN...
ANG MAKAHULI E MAY FIVE MILLION.
TAPOS PAKAWALAN ULI NATIN...
PHEH!
PMJ070703

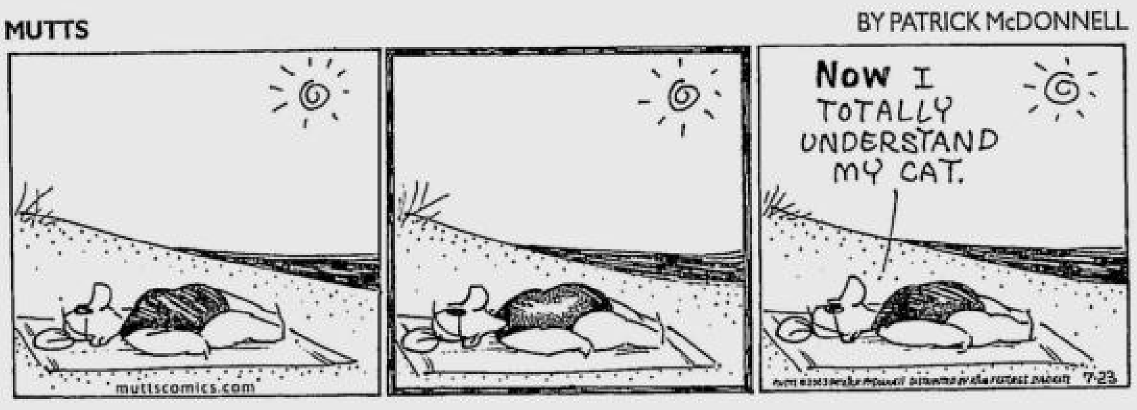
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HOW DID YOU DO THAT??
I JUST THREW THE RING OVER THE BOTTLE LIKE THE GUY SAID. IT WAS EASY.
WELL, YOU WERE INCREDIBLY LUCKY, AND I'LL PROVE IT. HERE. TRY IT AGAIN.
OKAY.
PLINK!
ANOTHER WINNAH!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP TEACHING ME THIS LESSON, MAYBE WE SHOULD GET A CART.

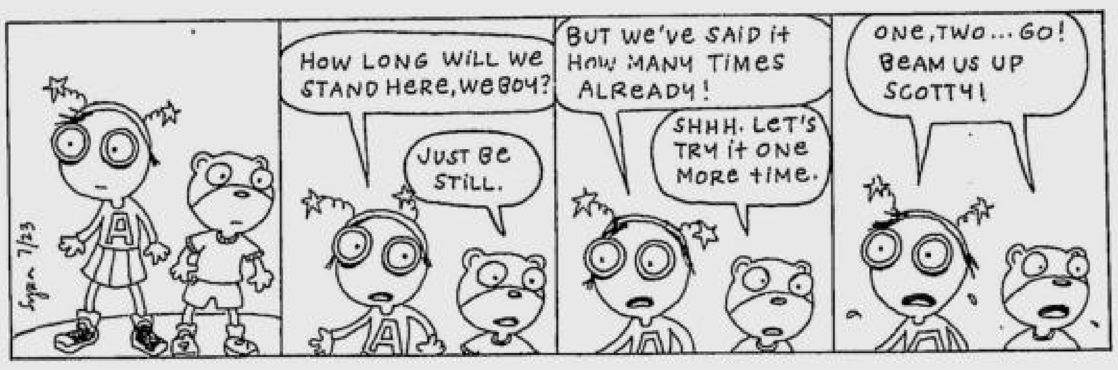
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


NOW I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND MY CAT.
muttscomics.com
7-23

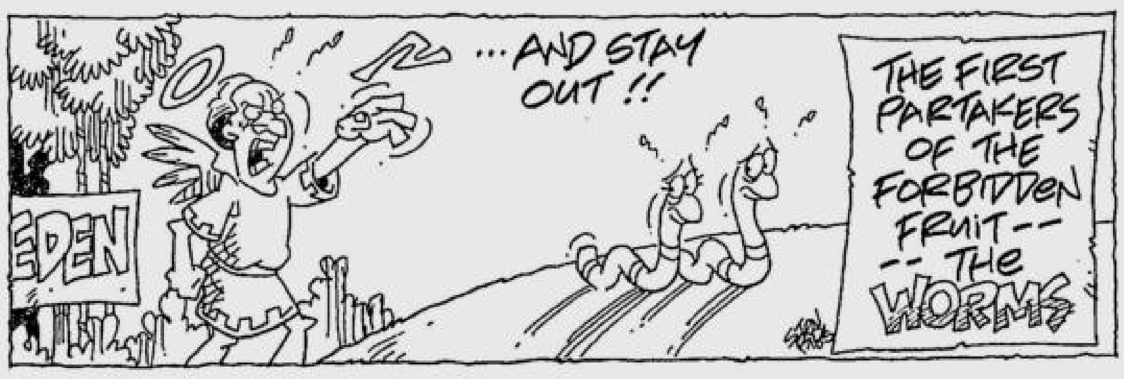
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Lyra 7/23
HOW LONG WILL WE STAND HERE, WEBOY?
JUST BE STILL.
BUT WE'VE SAID IT HOW MANY TIMES ALREADY!
SHHH. LET'S TRY IT ONE MORE TIME.
ONE, TWO... GO! BEAM US UP SCOTTY!

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


...AND STAY OUT!!
EDEN
THE FIRST PARTAKERS OF THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT -- -- THE WORMS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: No matter what you explore in life, essentially you are a traditionalist. You embody the qualities of compassion and generosity. You appreciate history, and you have a genuine love of humanity. Basically, you like people. This year will be one of the most fortunate years of your life. Your cherished dreams can come true.
Birthdate of: Don Drysdale, baseball pitcher; Charisma Carpenter, actress; Woody Harrelson, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You enjoy teaching young minds how to do something today. You are the perfect person to teach crafts and artistic skills, because you are the artisan of the zodiac.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is an excellent day to finish repairs you have already started at home. In particular, focus on plumbing, garbage and basement areas.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Even though you have the urge to give advice to a close friend now, you might want to think twice about doing so. What you think is constructive might be construed as criticism.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Go right ahead and suggest your ideas to improve things at work. There's always another way to build a better mousetrap. Your suggestions might save money.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You want to improve your appearance so that you'll feel more attractive and flirtatious. You feel particularly good about yourself now—and you want to stay that way!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your ability to research and ferret out hidden information is excellent today. Expect to uncover secrets about back-room deals and family business.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): A friend who is younger than you has good advice you might want to follow. Listen carefully to what others say, and decide for yourself what is worthwhile.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Important people are impressed with what you have to say now. Others see that you know what you're talking about, and because of this they will endorse you!

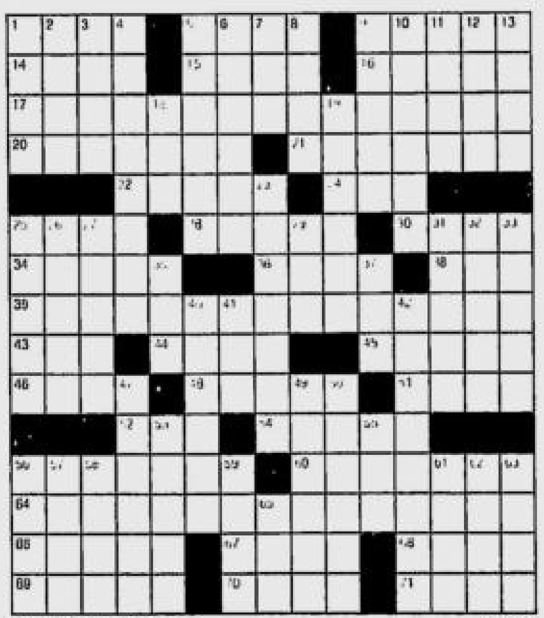
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Suggestions from surprising sources might cause you to change your appearance in some way. You have a strong desire to improve yourself now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): If you can be open to understanding the values of others (even if you don't agree with them), you can come to a compromise about shared possessions. Ditto for shared responsibilities.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): A close friend has suggestions about how to improve your life or your relationships. At least listen out of courtesy. (You don't have to follow advice you don't agree with.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a good day to make repairs or fix things at work. Whatever you do will likely last a long time and benefit others as well. This is good, because what goes around comes around.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL
7/23/03

ACROSS
1 Token value
5 "__, poor Yorick"
9 Molten rock
14 Nemean beast
15 Hard or soft finish?
16 "__ Shrugged"
17 Save
20 Single
21 Dawn songs
22 Chopper part
24 Permit to
25 Ease into a spot
28 Trance
30 At once, to an MD
34 Lotion additives
36 Nautical assents
38 Carnival city
39 Save
43 Word ignored when alphabetizing
44 Mild expletive
45 Singer Parton
46 Beauty pageant accessory
48 Ham it up
51 Vegetable-oil spread
52 Poetic piece
54 Gadabout
56 Open-air auto option
60 Write a check?
64 Save
66 Cash in hand, e.g.
67 Pennsylvania port
68 Shoppe sign word
69 Soft touch
70 Legal title
71 Second to none

DOWN
1 Double chin or spare tire
2 Verdi heroine
3 Gals
4 Carriage return, today
5 Looks forward to
6 Portable PC
7 Jackie's second husband
8 Nintendo rival
9 Perchance
10 Plate appearances
11 Delighted
12 Stable locks
13 Inquires
18 So it's you!
19 Esophagus
23 House agent
25 Peace accords
26 Hilo hello
27 Dogie catchers
29 Caustic substance
31 Tremulous sound
32 Walkway
33 Godzilla's target
35 Singing the blues
37 Turf
40 No longer burdened by
41 Descartes' conclusion
42 Opening grip
47 Hold your __!
49 Baseball's Aaron or Agee
50 Sidestepped
53 Cuckoo
55 Slice of history
56 Equal exchange
57 Celestial bear
58 Cozy spot
59 Savage or Couples
61 Leer at
62 Govt. agents
63 Succumb to worry
65 Bauxite or galena

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

D	O	G	S	■	S	T	E	T	■	F	E	R	A	L
I	D	L	E	■	A	R	T	E	■	A	L	I	C	E
V	I	E	W	I	N	A	N	E	W	L	I	G	H	T
A	N	N	E	S	■	N	A	T	E	S	■	G	E	T
■	■	■	R	A	P	S	■	H	I	E	S	■	■	■
A	D	D	■	■	L	A	S	E	R	■	E	L	S	E
P	R	O	S	P	E	C	T	■	■	O	P	I	U	M
S	E	E	W	H	A	T	Y	O	U	C	A	N	D	O
E	A	S	E	D	■	■	L	I	T	T	L	E	S	T
S	R	T	A	■	E	L	E	N	A	■	■	N	Y	E
■	■	■	T	A	C	O	■	T	H	E	M	■	■	■
S	I	P	■	C	H	A	S	M	■	M	A	R	C	H
L	O	O	K	T	O	T	H	E	F	U	T	U	R	E
A	T	S	E	A	■	H	O	N	E	■	C	L	E	M
T	E	E	N	S	■	E	T	T	E	■	H	E	E	P

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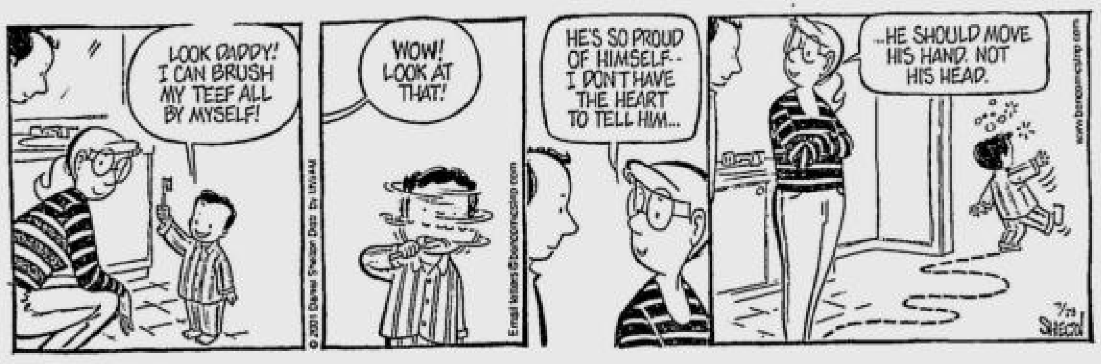
7/23/03

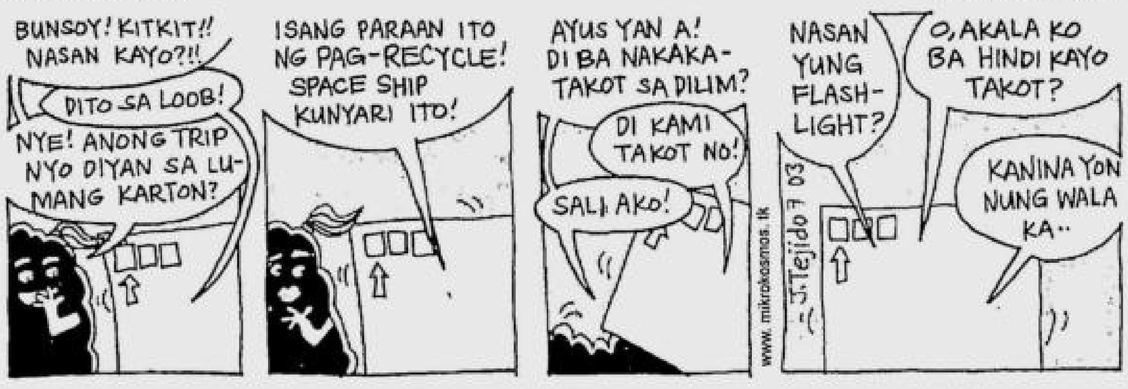
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


LOOK DADDY! I CAN BRUSH MY TEEF ALL BY MYSELF!
WOW! LOOK AT THAT!
HE'S SO PROUD OF HIMSELF-- I DON'T HAVE THE HEART TO TELL HIM...
...HE SHOULD MOVE HIS HAND, NOT HIS HEAD.
7/23 SHELTON

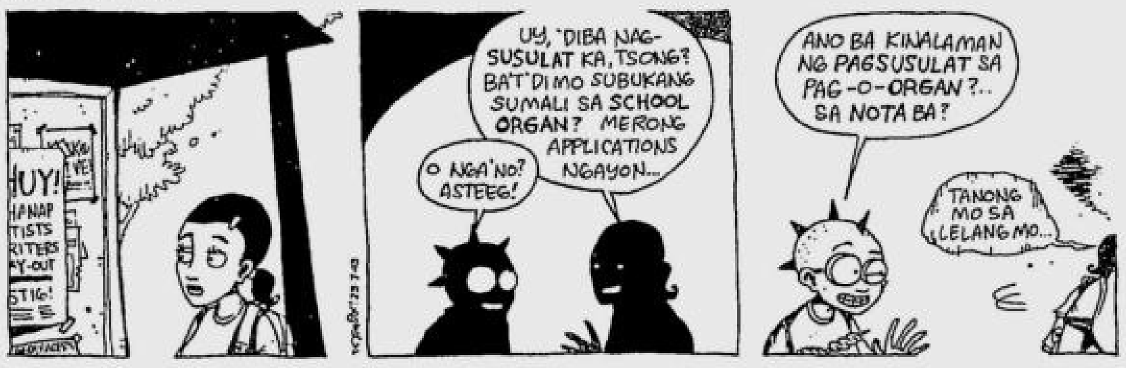
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BUNSOY! KITKIT!! NASAN KAYO?!!
DITO SA LOOB!
NYE! ANONG TRIP NYO DIYAN SA LUMANG KARTON?
ISANG PARAAN ITO NG PAG-RECYCLE! SPACE SHIP KUNYARI ITO!
AYUS YAN A! DI BA NAKAKATAKOT SA DILIM?
DI KAMI TAKOT NO!
SALI AKO!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J.Tejido 7 03
NASAN YUNG FLASH-LIGHT?
O, AKALA KO BA HINDI KAYO TAKOT?
KANINA YON NUNG WALA KA..

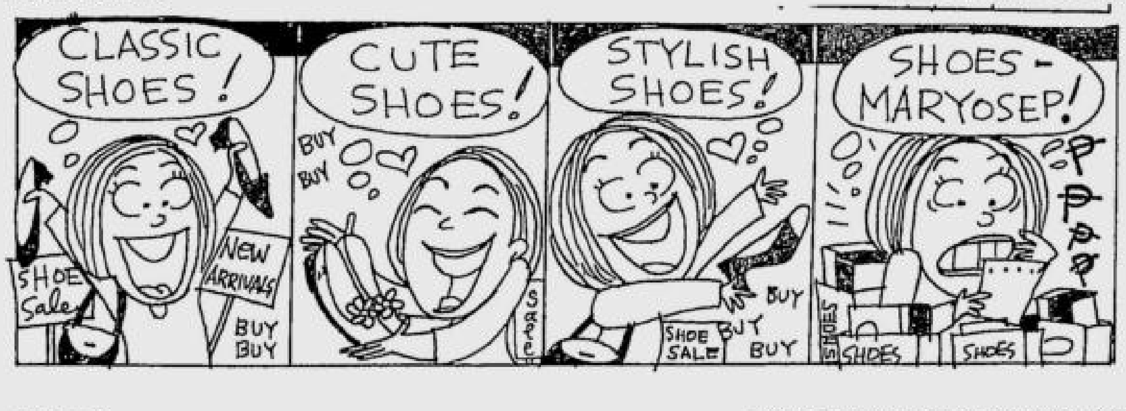
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HUY!
UY, 'DIBA NAG-SUSULAT KA, TSONG? BAT' DI MO SUBUKANG SUMALI SA SCHOOL ORGAN? MERONG APPLICATIONS NGAYON...
O NGA'NO? ASTEEG!
ANO BA KINALAMAN NG PAGSUSULAT SA PAG-O-ORGAN?.. SA NOTA BA?
TANONG MO SA LELANG MO...

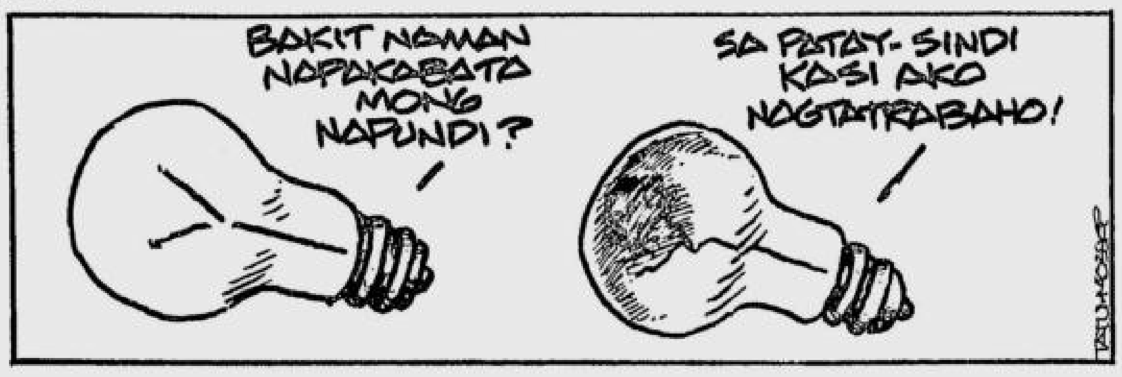
FURRY LOGIC

BY SUZIE AND CALVIN


CLASSIC SHOES!
SHOE Sale
NEW ARRIVALS
BUY BUY
CUTE SHOES!
BUY BUY
STYLISH SHOES!
SHOE SALE
BUY BUY BUY
SHOES-MARYOSEP!
SHOES
SHOES
SHOES

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKIT NAMAN NAPAKABATA MONG NAPUNDI?
SA PATAY-SINDI KASI AKO NAGTATRABAHO!

RESTO OF THE WEEK

No longer boxed in

By Pam Pastor

SINCE it opened in April 1999, Thai in a Box has been whipping up servings of memorable palate adventures for happy food lovers.

What was originally planned as an establishment that delivered tasty Thai food in boxes (thus the name) has become a good place for dining in, too.

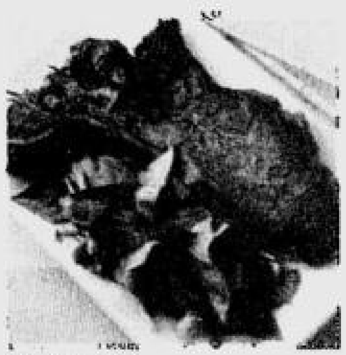
2bU! favorites include the Thai Steak, which is big and juicy; the Spring Rolls, which are moist and tasty; and the Grilled Chicken with Thai *kangkong*, which is flavorful.

Other must-orders are the *bagoong* rice, chicken skewers and mango *pandan* delight.

Thai in a Box has branches in The Podium, Ortigas Center; Gold Park Center, Pasay Road; SM City North Edsa, Katipunan, Tomas Morato and Greenbelt Makati.

What is the first thing you would order at Thai in a Box?

GRILLED Chicken with Thai *kangkong* and Grilled Squid with Thai *kangkong*



THAI Steak

SPRING Rolls

2bU! and Thai in a Box want to take you and your friends out to dinner. Send your answer to the question above to **Contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph** along with your name, age, school and contact numbers. Three winners will each get P1,000 worth of gift certificates from Thai in a Box. Entries should be received on or before 12 nn on July 28.

SuperStar Virgo celebrates her long-awaited return to Singapore

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We've been in Australia for a while now. It was a wonderful experience for us. But we miss home. So we are sailing back soon. And we would like to celebrate by giving you our special Homecoming Offer! This package is valid only for bookings made by 22 August 2003 for cruises departing between 25 July and 31 August 2003.

* *Price based on Inside Stateroom (IS) triple-sharing. Rates subject to change without prior notice.*
** *Subject to Star Cruises' terms and conditions.*

For inquiries, call Star Cruises' office at Unit 3B, Pacific Place Building, 539 Arquiza St. Ermita, Manila. Tel: 632-521 5660/526 8401 Fax: 632-521 5637. Alternatively, you can log on to www.starcruises.com

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Not your Latino Eminem

Shawn Desman
BMG Music

By Jason Doplito
2bU! Correspondent

REVIEW

DON'T be deceived by the Latino-looking Eminem on the cover; Shawn Desman doesn't talk about killing his mother or beating up his wife. In fact, he doesn't even rap at all, which is a surprise for this hip-hop looking dude. Instead, he croons in an acceptable soulful voice, slightly resembling the style of Justin Timberlake.

The album is heavily pop, with a lot of fast beats and synthesizers. Listening to it for the first time, you'd say it's not bad for a new artist. For the second time, you'd start humming along the chorus parts. As for the third time, that's when the lyrics start jumping out of your player and into your head. And then you start laughing.

As any 19-year-old would probably do on his first album, Shawn has injected a lot of testosterone on this one—to the point of giving the impression that he badly needs to get laid. His lyrics, which he co-wrote with his producers, are brimming with sexual frustration and desire for someone whom he consistently refers to as "Girl."

Now, Girl is no ordinary err, girl. Apparently she's a control freak ("Never Change Me"), a Victoria's Secret model ("Shook") and a heartbreaker ("Couldn't Care Less") in a long list of other identities. At one point, our boy, Shawn, gets so upset with the one-way love affair that he starts threatening her: "Don't waste my time/ I got girls in line" ("Better Than Me"). But then, he suddenly goes all mushy and sings "Superman," where he offers his devotion to his one true love.

When he's not spilling the beans on "Girl," he dishes out some pretty respectable songs, as in the case of the ballad "Spread My Wings" (this is where the Eminem similarity completely breaks down). He also has some noble thoughts on solving the world's problems ("Difference"), though they're quite cliché.

You can say that Shawn was not taking himself too seriously in this album. It's easy listening and would probably be a good soundtrack while driving. His interludes are boyish and hilarious, depending on your mood. Actually, all tracks in this self-titled debut album aren't bad at all. They're never boring and have everything you'd expect from a radio-friendly release—songs that you'd bob your head up and down to.

Currently making waves in Canada, Shawn started out at an early age in the Portuguese and Italian communities. He can easily fit into any of the remaining boybands, but as everyone else is going solo, he did well to go on his own, invading an American popdom ruled by Justin and Britney.

Want to get a taste of Shawn Desman?

SHAWN DESMAN

BMG Music's Narcisso Chan and 2bU! are giving away five CDs of this Latino crooner. Just tell us what's it about Shawn that you like best and e-mail your answers to **Contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph** on or before 12 nn on July 28.

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A Duncan quickie

Some choice bites from the übertalented music-maker, recently in Manila to delight us with his royal melodies

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

SO what do we know about The Talented Mister Sheik?

Since his four-day stay here in Manila, we've established that he's obsessed with wine, he loves artsy English bands, and he can't play the trumpet to save the world.

He's also done an album with New York playwright Steven Sater, and has even done the score for a few of his plays.

The 33-year-old Brown University graduate (who was in a band with Lisa Loeb called "Liz and Lisa") also serenaded fans at the Aliw Theater on two nights with guests Paolo Santos and Rockwell and Dain from Stephen Speaks.

On a tight sked, we managed to squeeze a few more answers out of the music-maker, right before he hopped on a plane to Boracay.

Free Duncan Sheik CDs!

We've got three autographed Duncan Sheik "Daylight" CDs to give away (super thanks to Anne Poblador of Warner Music Philippines). Just tell us what your favorite Duncan song is and why. Send your answers to **Contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph** on or before 12 nn on July 28.

The first thing that popped into your head this morning?

This is the wrong kind of publication for that...

What's the best advice anyone has given to you?

"Stay up late, things happen"

Who's your favorite superhero?

Wonder Woman

What band is a total waste of time?

I'm trying to stop worrying about other peoples bad artistic choices

The Essentials of a Home with Style
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3
4
12
13
5
10
6
8
TechnoPlaza One
Two-level Parking
Eastwood City Walk II
Fitness First
ORCHARD ROAD
OPEN PARKING
Eastwood City Information Centre
Eastwood City Walk I
Home Centre

1 Divider by Index Furniture Center12 Dining chair by Index Furniture Center ..3 Flower ensemble by Designer Blooms14 Rice bowl with chopsticks from Sifra Arts & Crafts55 Decorative fruits from Justin's Treasure66 Wooden trays by Unna Moebel77 Serving spoons from Sifra Arts & Crafts88 Cups from Pottery Exchange99 Ceramic tray by Lanelle Abueva-Fernando Studio 100 Serving ..s by Lanelle Abueva-Fernando Studio11 Ceramic plate by Lanelle Abueva-Fernando Studio12 Stoneware by Sifra Arts & Crafts 133 Placemat from Sifra Arts & Crafts

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BANGKOK HAUNTED

'BANGKOK HAUNTED'

Hair-raising visual treat

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

EVERY place has a story to tell, and the three tales "Bangkok Haunted" offer are enthralling ones that also showcase Thailand's culture and daily life.

REVIEW

The movie presents three tales that three girls share one rainy night in a coffee shop.

The first story is about a girl who comes across a strange ancient drum that brings her dreams that are supposedly connected with the musical instrument. It tells the story of dancer Paga, her fiancé Fond and cloaked half-brother Gnod—a love triangle that results in tragedy.

The second involves a party platypus who makes use of a love potion to get the guys that she drools after. One victim, however, gets too intoxicated, giving her more than she can handle.

The final story is an action-filled one about a policeman avenging a friend who supposedly committed suicide. This one may seem too stiff and serious for some, but it has the most jaw-dropping actors.

A goodie bag with romance, erotica, action and, not to forget, horror and suspense, "Bangkok Haunted" is a fast-paced visual treat with music video-style editing that is sure to raise goosebumps. Definitely it's Thailand's more contemporary "Shake, Rattle and Roll."

E-mail the author at omark_katot@yahoo.com

Men now 'sell' feminine pads

By Bunny Anne Gapit
2bU! Correspondent

FINALLY, a couple of television advertisements for feminine pads that are a much-welcome change from the usual.

The ads for Libresse micro-pantyliners and sanitary napkins boldly make the man the product endorser, apparently conceding the point that next to a girl's best friend, the boyfriend would be in the best position to offer advice. After all, men often have to put up with the short temper and other consequences of the discomfort and inconvenience caused by their girls' monthly periods.

Libresse sanitary napkins

The scenario:

Lucky Manzano reveals how happy he is with the positive change in his GF's disposition, who is now more eager to participate in sports and leisure. He compares it to the time when her period would ruin their plans. He says that whatever fortune (the napkin his GF uses, of course) has finally smiled on him, it sure is like a dog, "a man's best friend."

Comment:

Imagine a vampire dog taking the place of a napkin. Eew.

What makes it click:

1. A one-act shoot that achieves its goal
2. Lucky's line is 100-percent relevant.
3. Perfect phonetics

What ticks us off:

1. Lucky throwing his line the *coño* way
2. Lucky sounding so glib (as ever). Somehow we need to see cognition (you know, that there are thoughts behind the words).

Libresse pantyliners

The picture:

Very much like the other one. In this case, Richard Gutierrez has a pantyliner plastered on his forehead, thinking it was a band-aid strip his thoughtful GF left in case he was injured. She enters the scene and whispers to him what is actually on his face.

Comment:

Yuck, *kadiri*. It isn't as if Richard pasted it on his face with *gamot na pula*.

What makes it click:

1. It's easy to like Richard's mellow bearing.
2. There was a creditable attempt to inject humor into the plot.
3. His spiel doesn't really give us any reason to get the pad aside from its size.

What ticks us off:

1. His ambiguous reaction to his GF's whispered comment leaves you hanging. The expression on his face is so false you don't know if he's supposed to blush in shame or just grin about it.

E-mail the author at keewich@yahoo.com

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